SUPERMAN

Post-CRISIS ON INFINITE EARTHS

Volume 60:

Crisis at Hand

VALOR 1. November, 1992. Published monthly by DC Comics Inc., 1325 Avenue of the Americas, New York, NY 10019. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to VALOR, DC Comics Subscriptions, P.O. Box 0528, Baldwin, NY 11510. Annual subscription rate $15.00. Canadian subscribers must add $8.00 for postage and GST. GST # is R125921072. All other foreign countries must add $12.00 for postage. U.S. funds only. Copyright © 1992 DC Comics Inc. All Rights Reserved. All characters featured in this issue, the distinctive likenesses thereof, and all related indicia are trademarks of DC Comics Inc. The stories, characters and incidents mentioned in this magazine are entirely fictional. Advertising Representative: Print Advertising Representatives, 355 Lexington Avenue, New York, NY 10017 (212) 949-6850. Printed in Canada.
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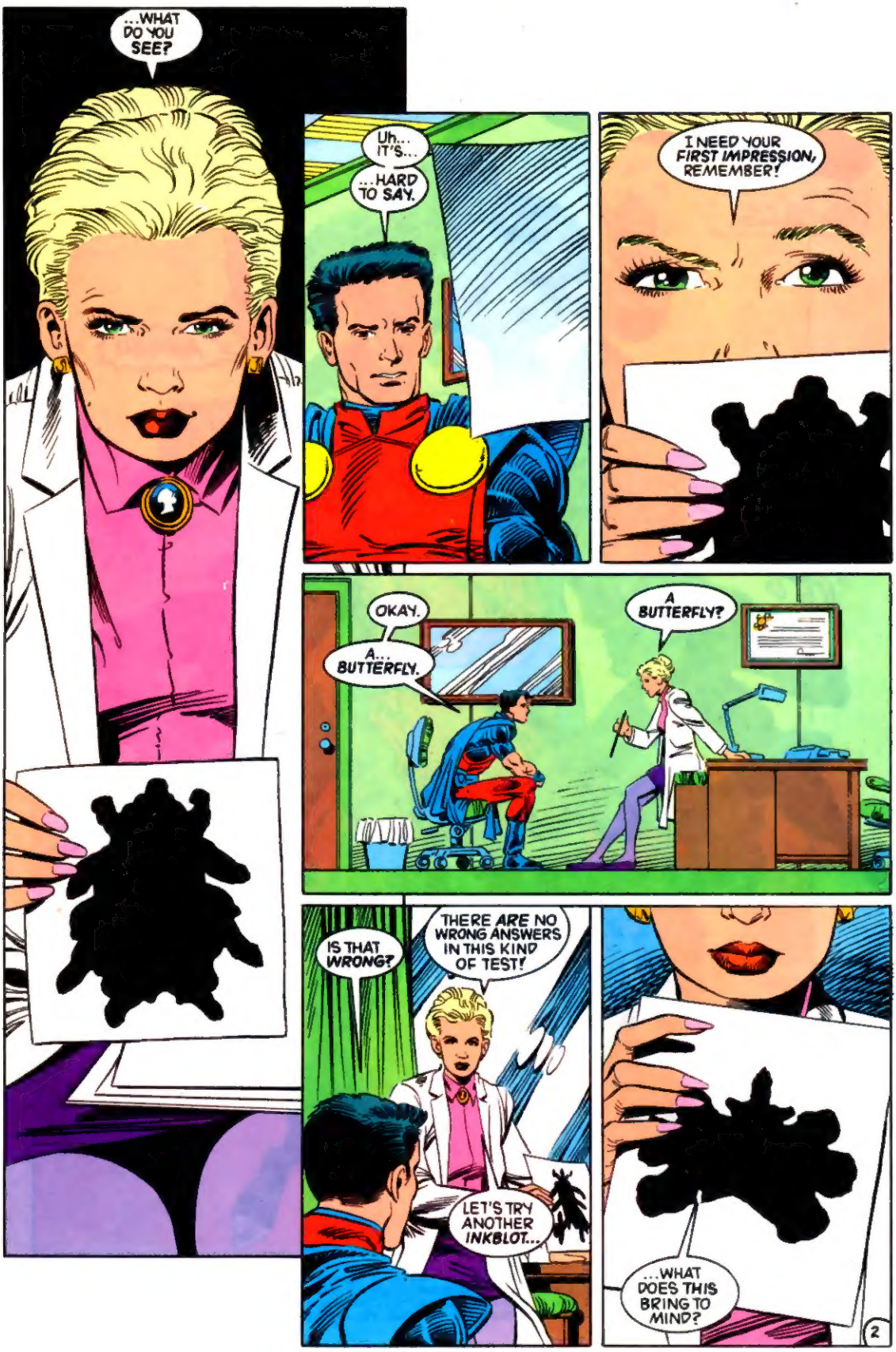
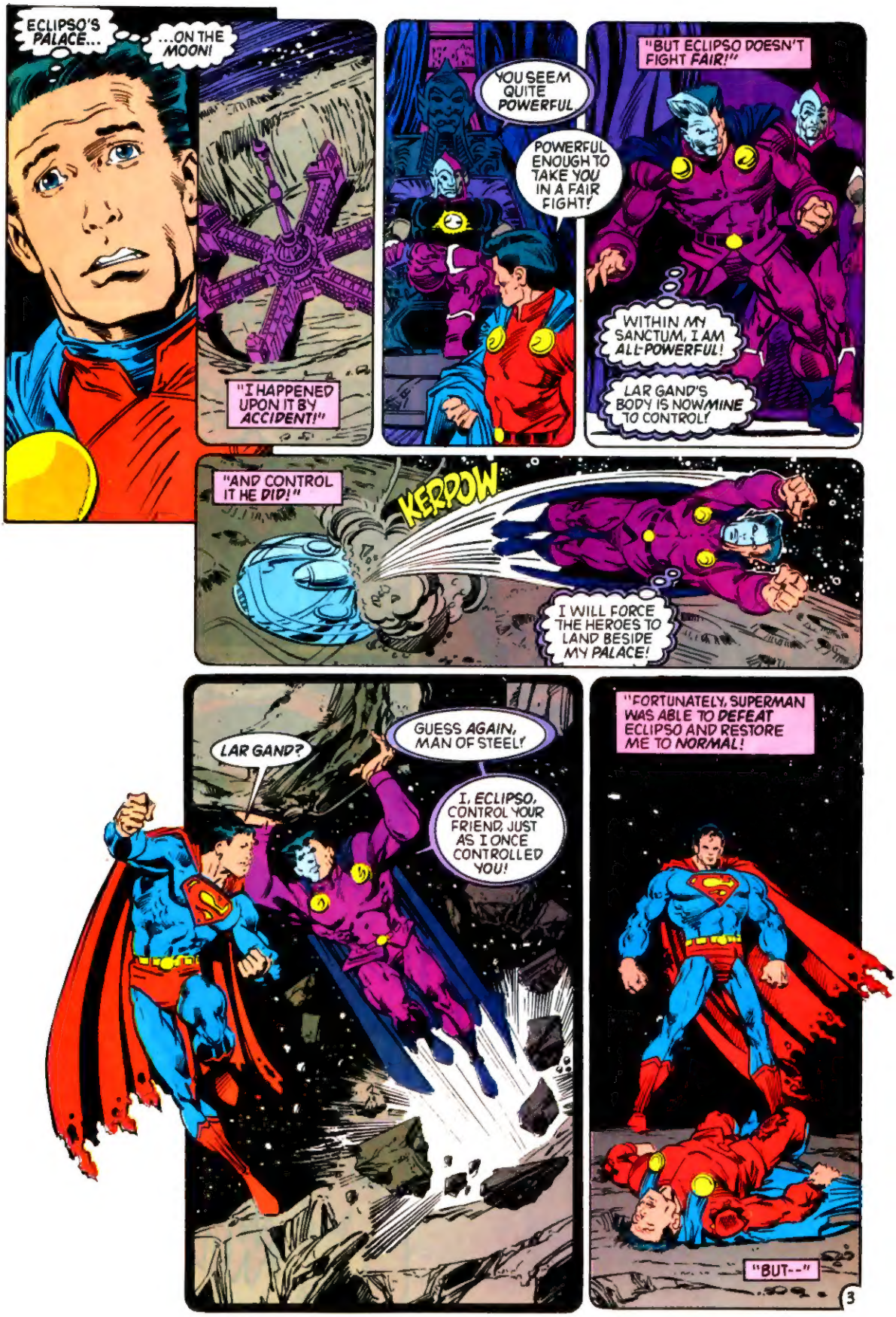
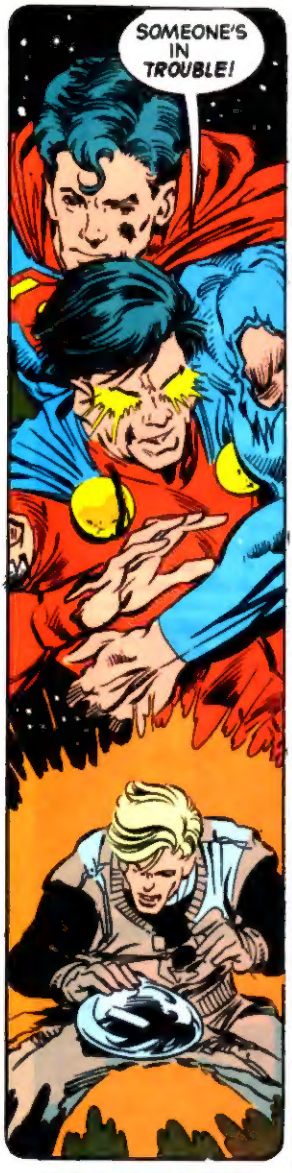

...WHAT DO YOU SEE?
Uh... IT'S...
...HARD TO SAY.
I NEED YOUR FIRST IMPRESSION, REMEMBER!
OKAY.
A... BUTTERFLY.
A BUTTERFLY?
IS THAT WRONG?
THERE ARE NO WRONG ANSWERS IN THIS KIND OF TEST!
LET'S TRY ANOTHER INKBLOT...
...WHAT DOES THIS BRING TO MIND?
2


ECLIPSO'S PALACE...
...ON THE MOON!
"I HAPPENED UPON IT BY ACCIDENT!"
YOU SEEM QUITE POWERFUL.
POWERFUL ENOUGH TO TAKE YOU IN A FAIR FIGHT!
"BUT ECLIPSO DOESN'T FIGHT FAIR!"
WITHIN MY SANCTUM, I AM ALL-POWERFUL!
LAR GAND'S BODY IS NOW MINE TO CONTROL!
"AND CONTROL IT HE DID!"
KERPOW
I WILL FORCE THE HEROES TO LAND BESIDE MY PALACE!
LAR GAND?
GUESS AGAIN, MAN OF STEEL!
I, ECLIPSO, CONTROL YOUR FRIEND, JUST AS I ONCE CONTROLLED YOU!
"FORTUNATELY, SUPERMAN WAS ABLE TO DEFEAT ECLIPSO AND RESTORE ME TO NORMAL!
"BUT--"
3

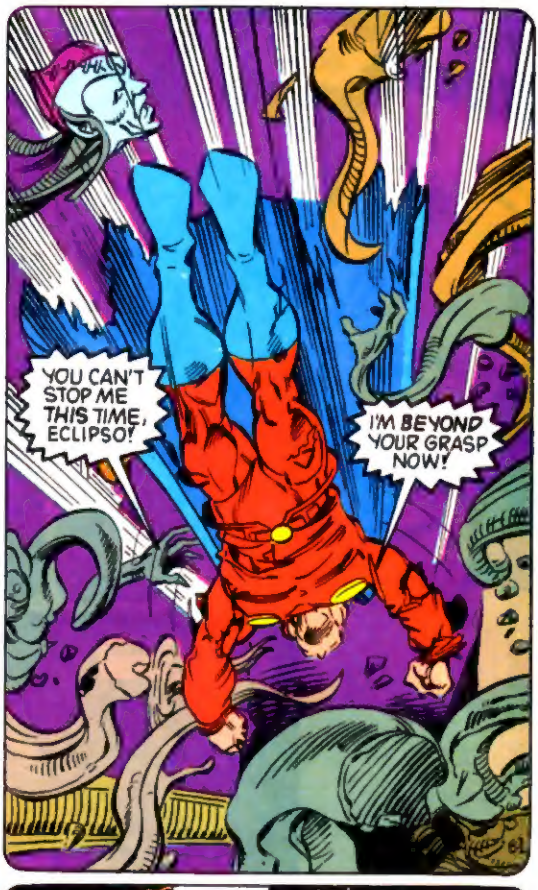


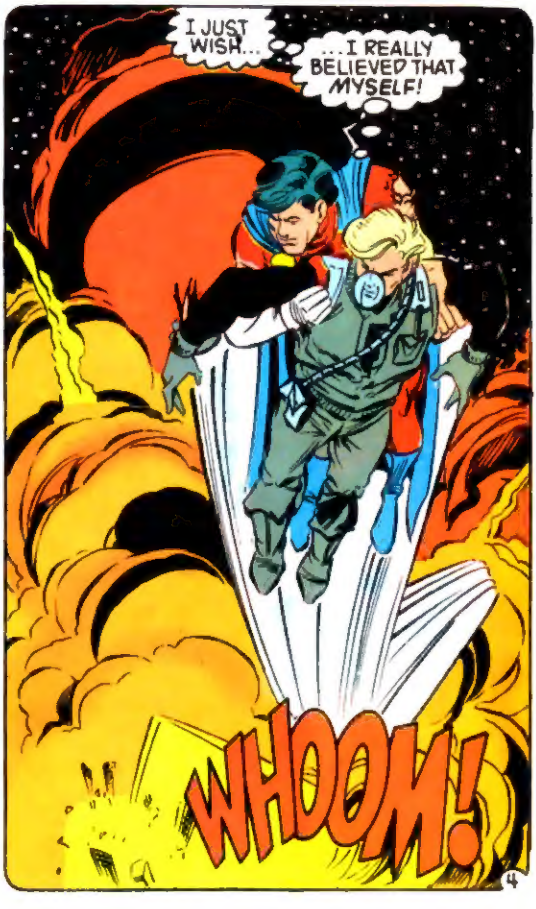
"I SPOTTED THE SOLAR SCIENTIST, *DR. BRUCE GORDON*, PLANTING A SOLAR BOMB INSIDE THE PALACE!

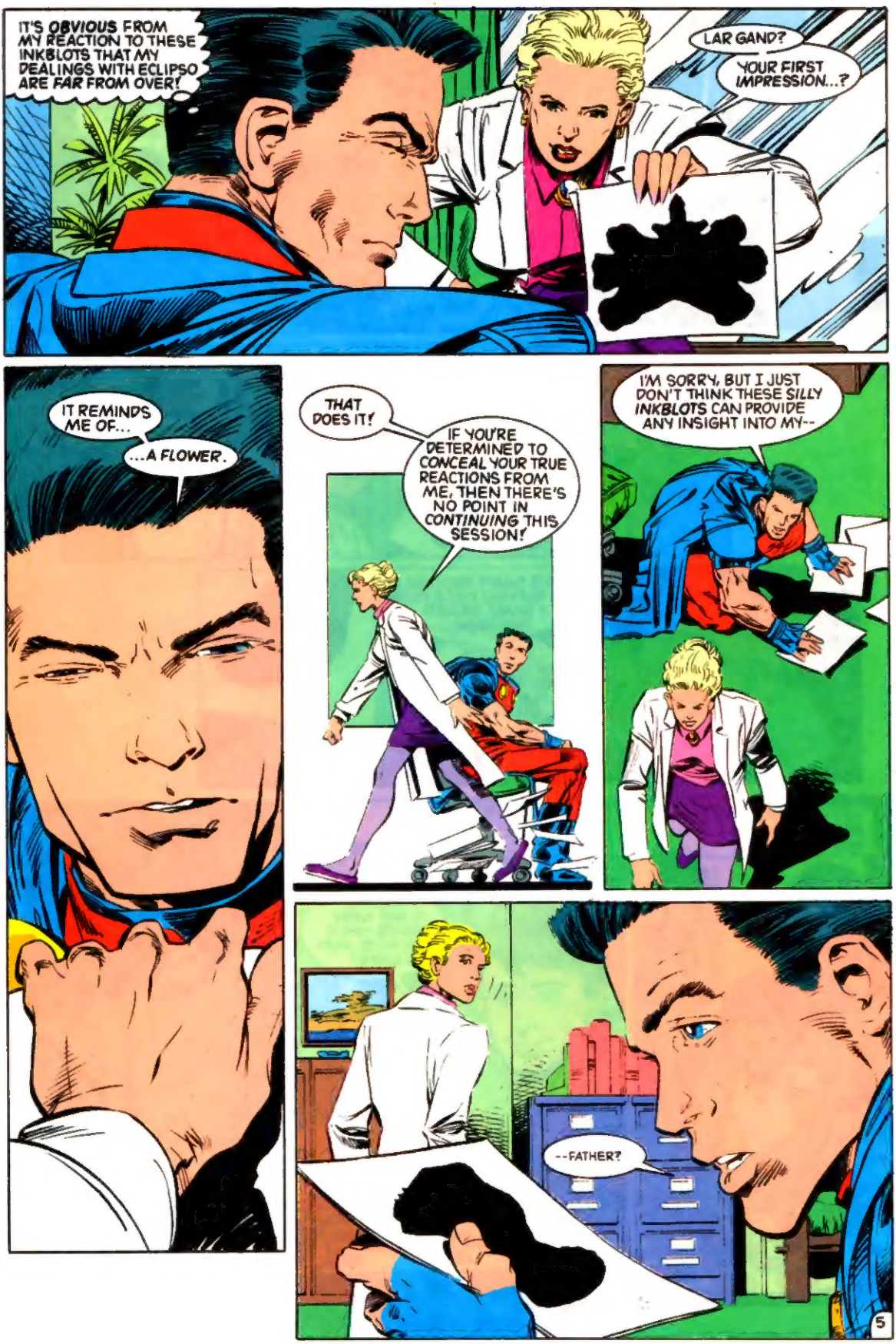
"ACCORDING TO THE TIMER ON THE BOMB, HE HAD LESS THAN A *MINUTE* TO GET OUT OF THERE!

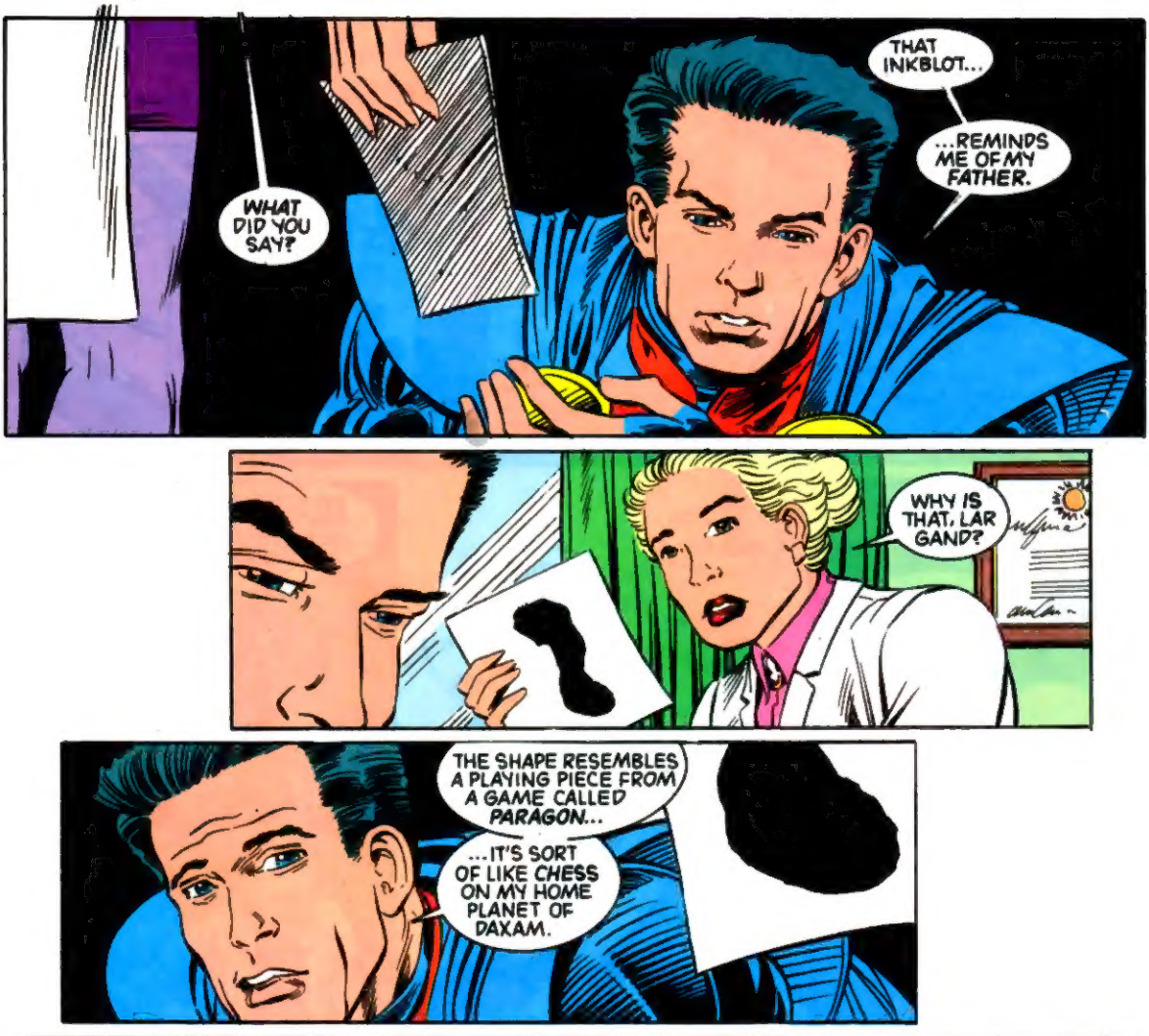
"I WAS FEELING PARTICULARLY *DIRTY*, AFTER HAVING ECLIPSO IN MY HEAD FOR SO LONG...

"...SO I *JUMPED* AT A CHANCE TO GET CLEAN!"

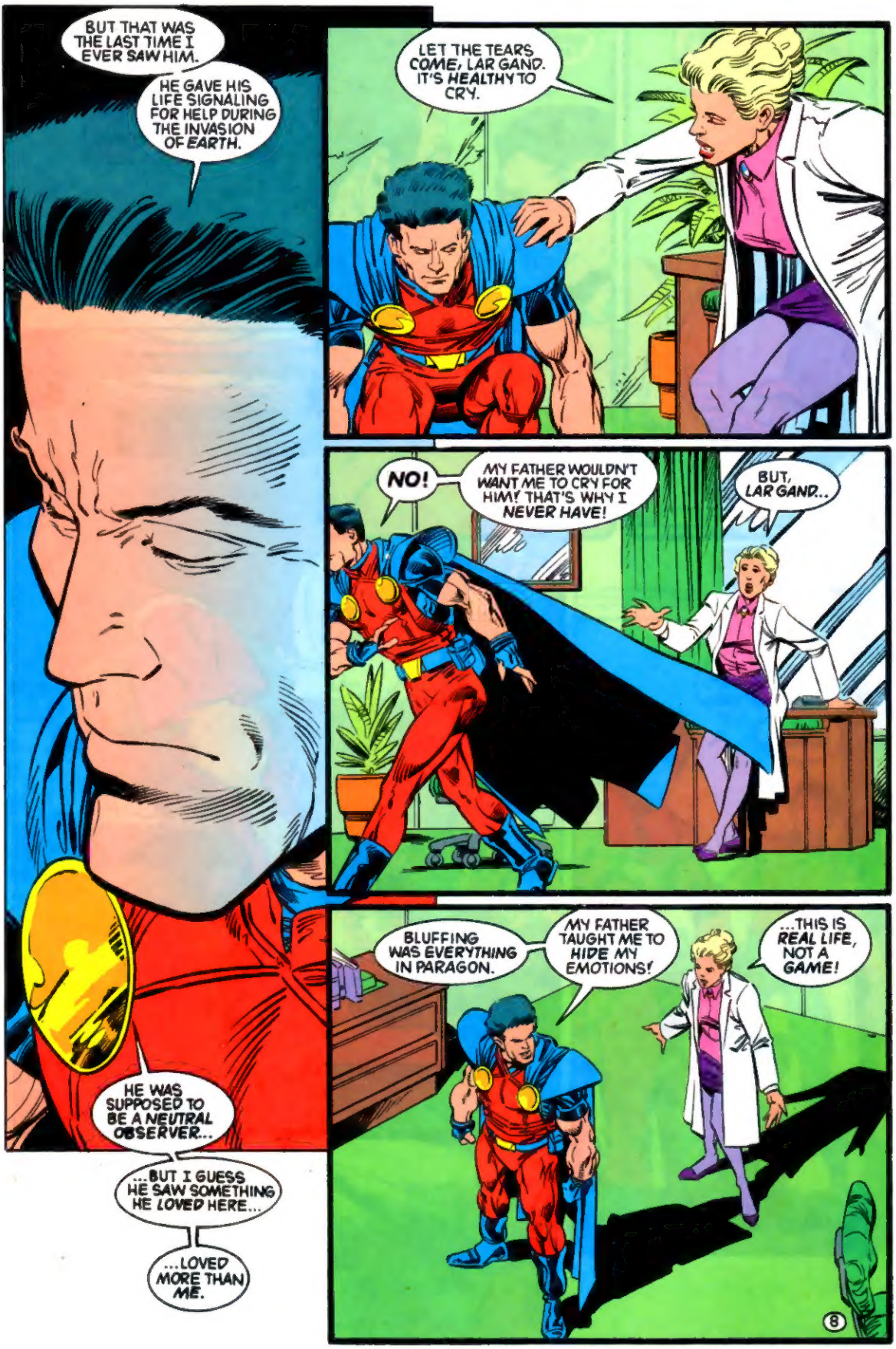


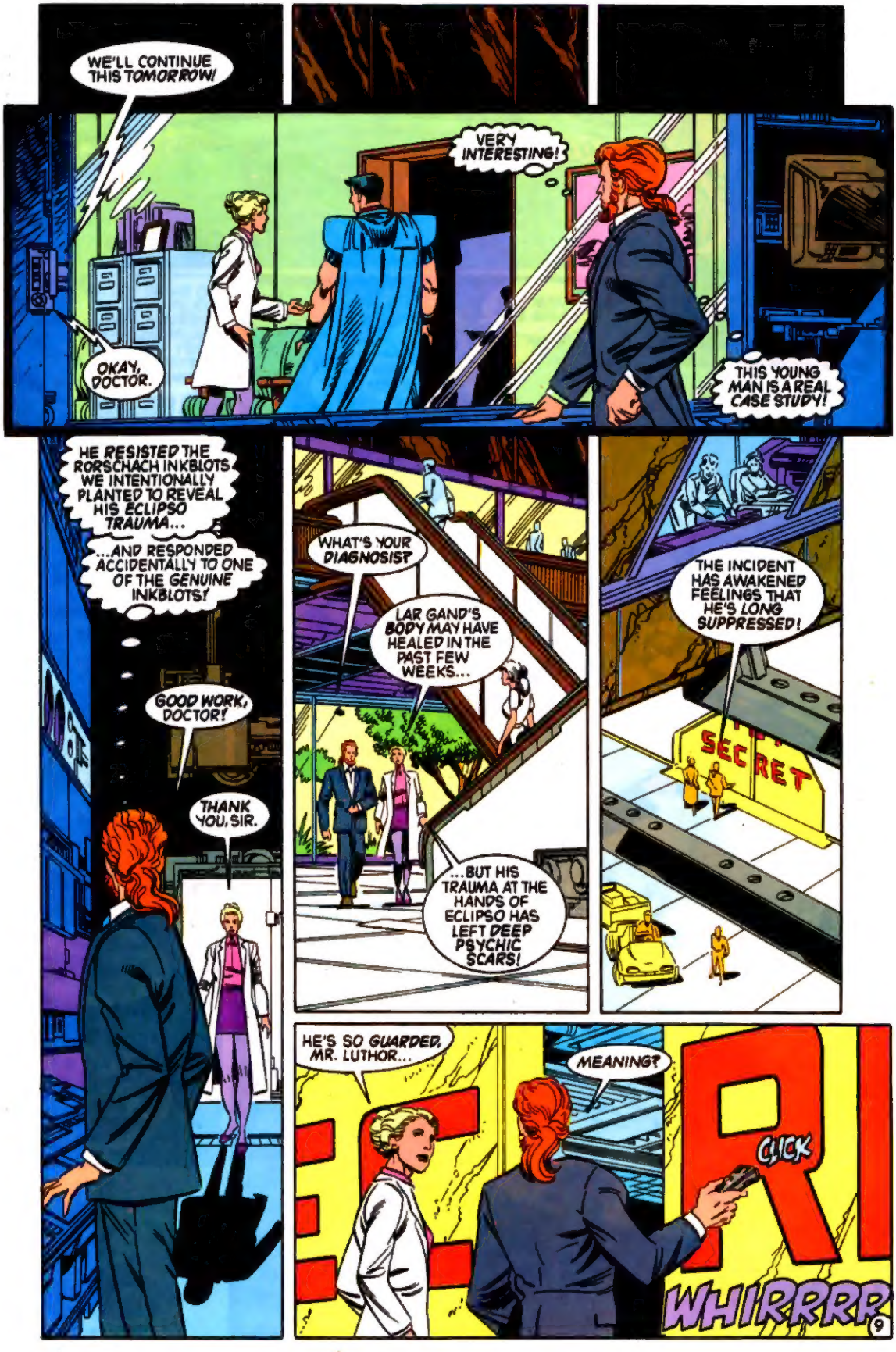


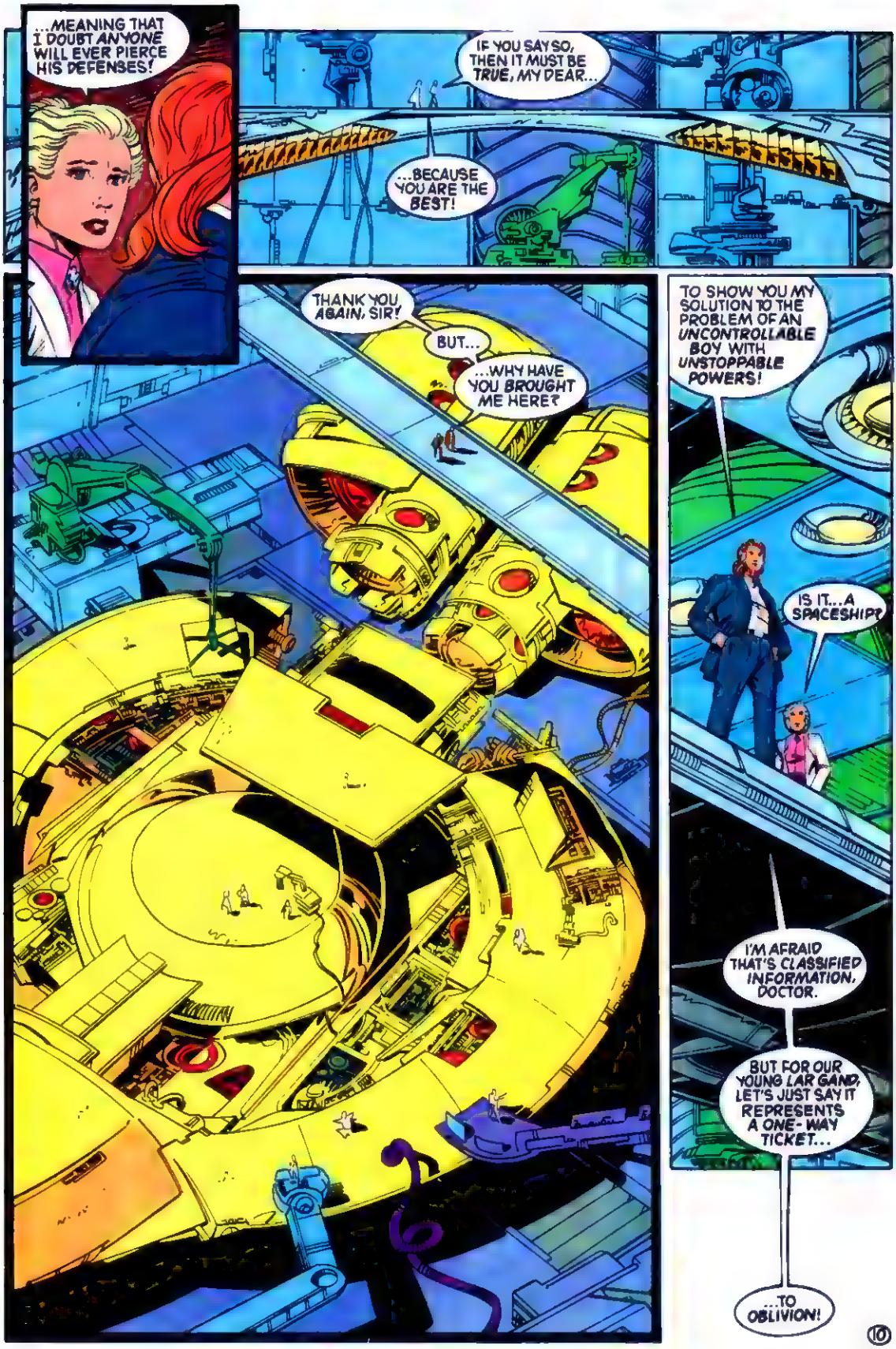

IT'S OBVIOUS FROM MY REACTION TO THESE INKBLOTS THAT MY DEALINGS WITH ECLIPSO ARE FAR FROM OVER!
LAR GAND?
YOUR FIRST IMPRESSION...?
IT REMINDS ME OF...
...A FLOWER.
THAT DOES IT!
IF YOU'RE DETERMINED TO CONCEAL YOUR TRUE REACTIONS FROM ME, THEN THERE'S NO POINT IN CONTINUING THIS SESSION!
I'M SORRY, BUT I JUST DON'T THINK THESE SILLY INKBLOTS CAN PROVIDE ANY INSIGHT INTO MY--
--FATHER?
5

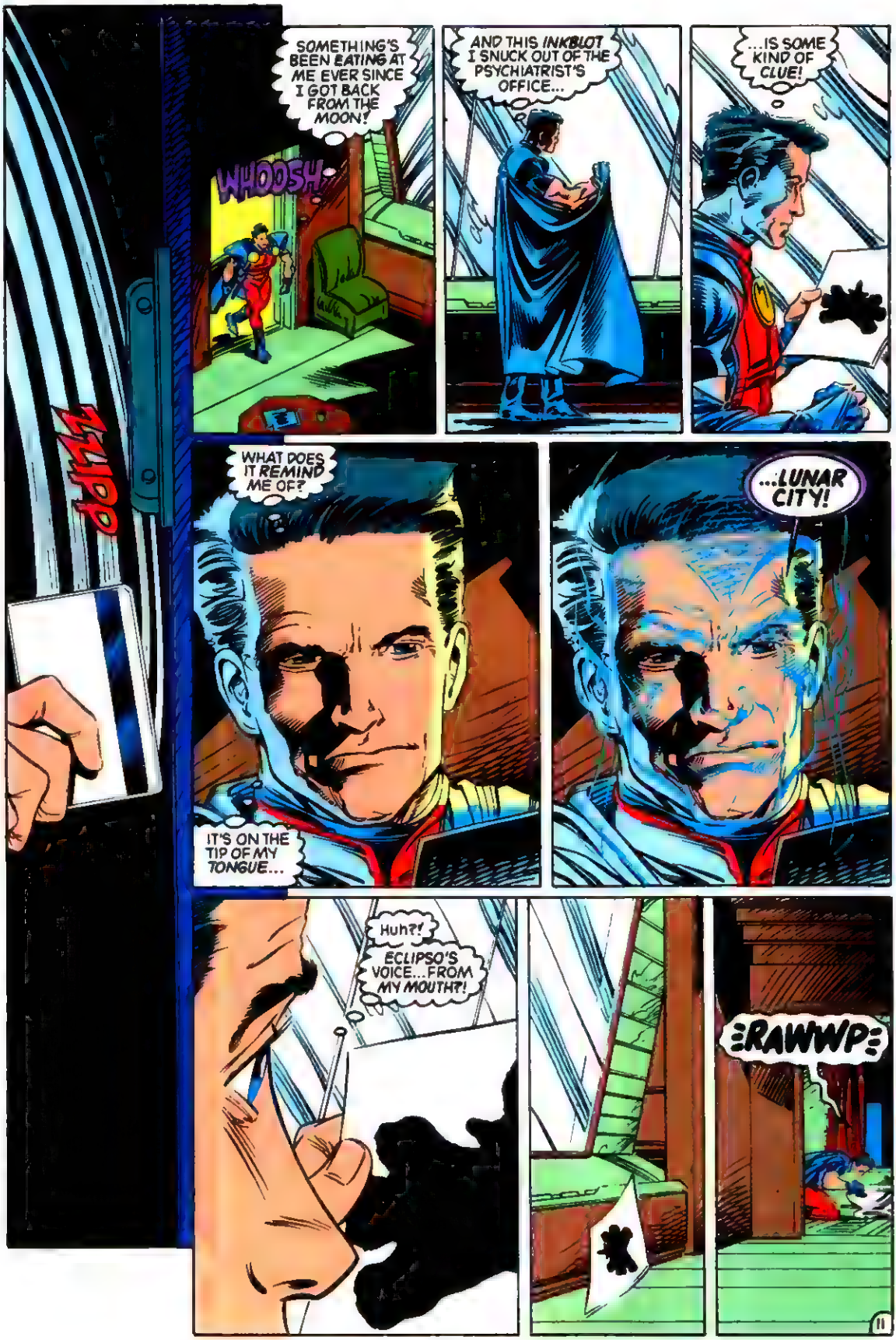

WHAT DID YOU SAY?
THAT INKBLOT...
...REMINDS ME OF MY FATHER.
WHY IS THAT, LAR GAND?
THE SHAPE RESEMBLES A PLAYING PIECE FROM A GAME CALLED PARAGON...
...IT'S SORT OF LIKE CHESS ON MY HOME PLANET OF DAXAM.
"MY FATHER TAUGHT ME TO PLAY WHEN I WAS ONLY THREE.
"WE PLAYED WHENEVER HE WAS HOME, WHICH WASN'T THAT OFTEN."
I LEARNED SOME NEW MOVES WHILE YOU WERE AWAY, FATHER!

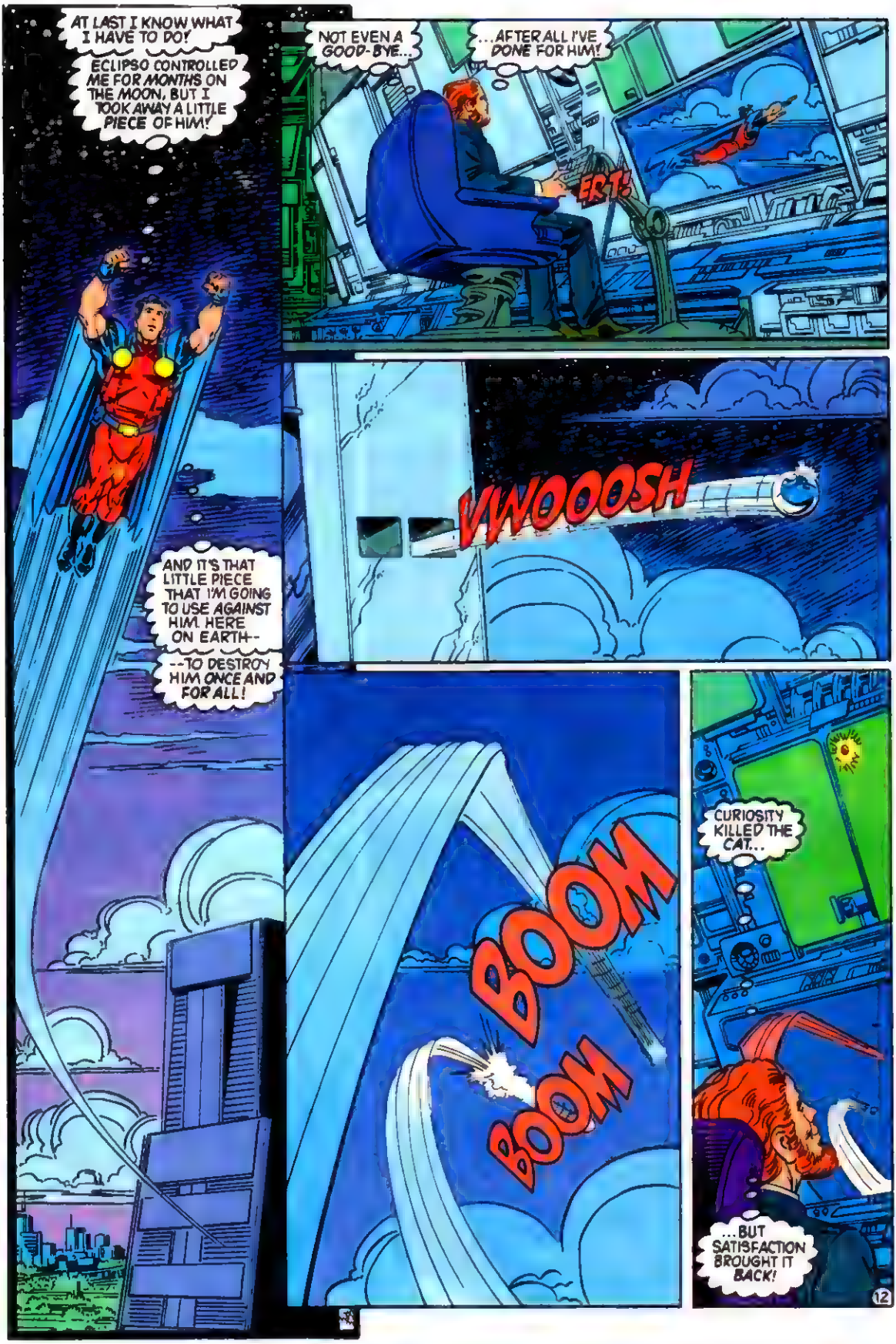
"HIS JOB INVOLVED A LOT OF TRAVELLING..."
GAMEPOINT, FATHER!
"...AND IT FINALLY CAUGHT UP TO HIM!
"I DON'T KNOW WHAT SURPRISED HIM MORE: THAT HE WAS ABOUT TO LOSE FOR THE VERY FIRST TIME...
"...OR THAT I WAS ABOUT TO WIN."
LEAVE THE BOARD SET UP, SON...
...WE'LL HAVE TO CONTINUE THIS WHEN I RETURN!
BUT, FATHER...
"I THOUGHT HE'D BE PROUD OF ME.
"I NEVER EXPECTED HIM TO FEEL THREATENED!"
WHEN HE GETS BACK, I'LL LET HIM WIN.
THEN EVERYTHING'LL BE ALL RIGHT AGAIN.
7

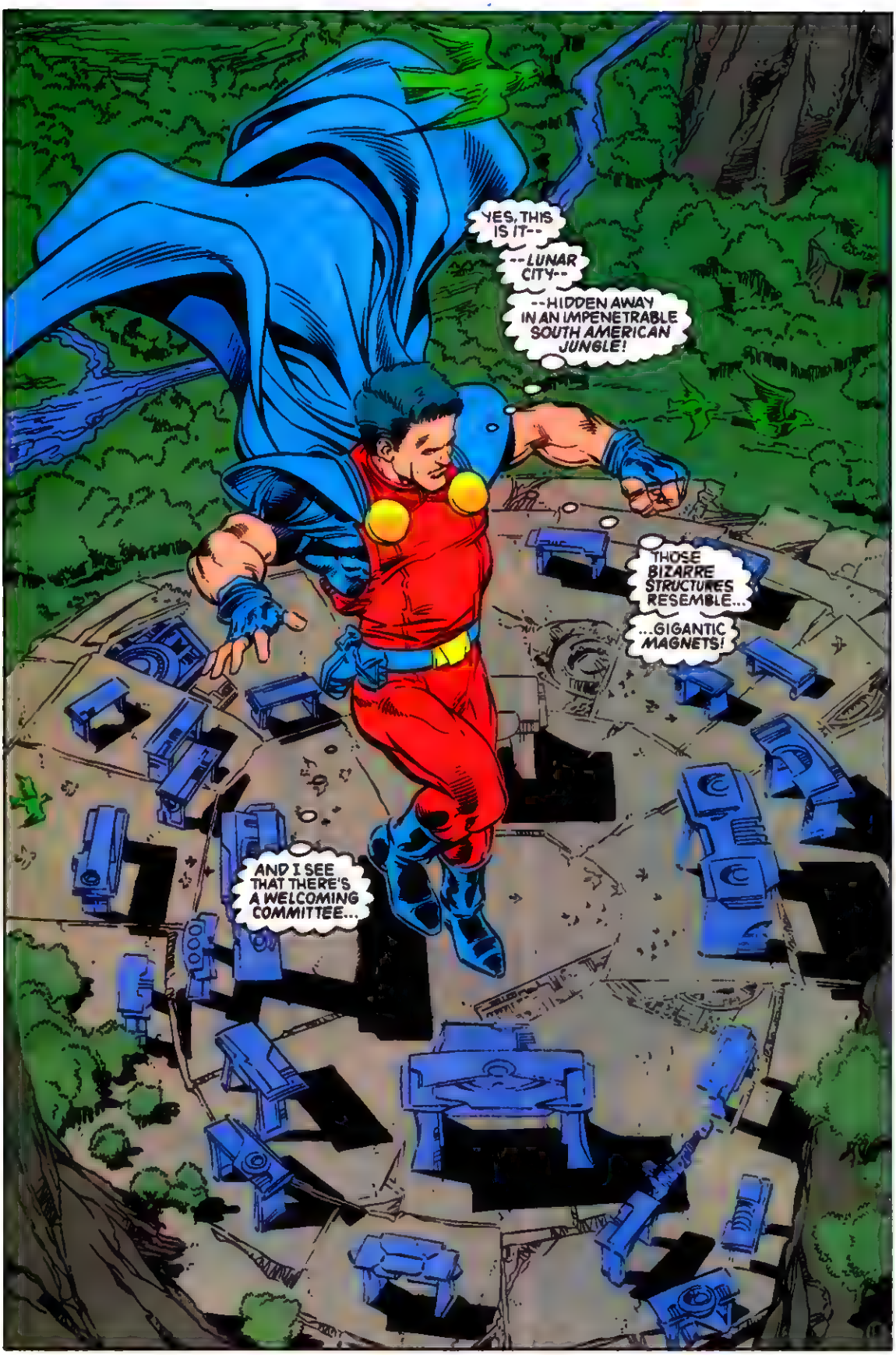

BUT THAT WAS THE LAST TIME I EVER SAW HIM.
HE GAVE HIS LIFE SIGNALING FOR HELP DURING THE INVASION OF EARTH.
HE WAS SUPPOSED TO BE A NEUTRAL OBSERVER...
...BUT I GUESS HE SAW SOMETHING HE LOVED HERE...
...LOVED MORE THAN ME.
LET THE TEARS COME, LAR GAND. IT'S HEALTHY TO CRY.
NO!
MY FATHER WOULDN'T WANT ME TO CRY FOR HIM! THAT'S WHY I NEVER HAVE!
BUT, LAR GAND...
BLUFFING WAS EVERYTHING IN PARAGON.
MY FATHER TAUGHT ME TO HIDE MY EMOTIONS!
...THIS IS REAL LIFE, NOT A GAME!
8


WE'LL CONTINUE THIS TOMORROW!
VERY INTERESTING!
OKAY, DOCTOR.
THIS YOUNG MAN IS A REAL CASE STUDY!
HE RESISTED THE RORSCHACH INKBLOTS WE INTENTIONALLY PLANTED TO REVEAL HIS ECLIPSO TRAUMA...
...AND RESPONDED ACCIDENTALLY TO ONE OF THE GENUINE INKBLOTS!
GOOD WORK, DOCTOR!
THANK YOU, SIR.
WHAT'S YOUR DIAGNOSIS?
LAR GAND'S BODY MAY HAVE HEALED IN THE PAST FEW WEEKS...
...BUT HIS TRAUMA AT THE HANDS OF ECLIPSO HAS LEFT DEEP PSYCHIC SCARS!
THE INCIDENT HAS AWAKENED FEELINGS THAT HE'S LONG SUPPRESSED!
SECRET
HE'S SO GUARDED, MR. LUTHOR...
MEANING?
CLICK
WHIRRRR
9


...MEANING THAT I DOUBT ANYONE WILL EVER PIERCE HIS DEFENSES!
IF YOU SAY SO, THEN IT MUST BE TRUE, MY DEAR...
...BECAUSE YOU ARE THE BEST!
THANK YOU AGAIN, SIR!
BUT...
...WHY HAVE YOU BROUGHT ME HERE?
TO SHOW YOU MY SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM OF AN UNCONTROLLABLE BOY WITH UNSTOPPABLE POWERS!
IS IT...A SPACESHIP?
I'M AFRAID THAT'S CLASSIFIED INFORMATION, DOCTOR.
BUT FOR OUR YOUNG LAR GAND, LET'S JUST SAY IT REPRESENTS A ONE-WAY TICKET...
...TO OBLIVION!

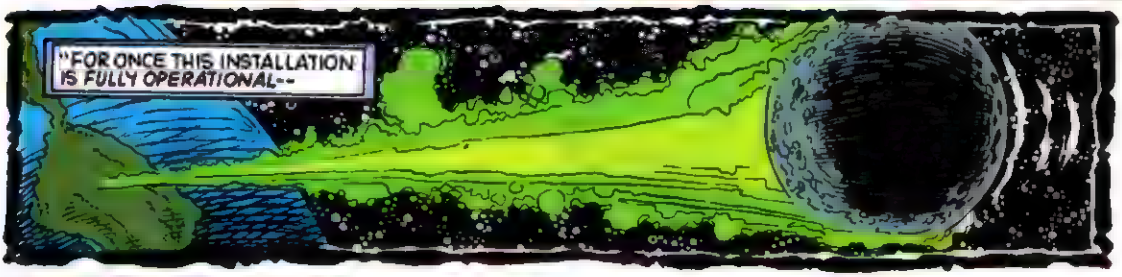

SOMETHING'S BEEN EATING AT ME EVER SINCE I GOT BACK FROM THE MOON!
WHOOSH!
AND THIS INKBLOT I SNUCK OUT OF THE PSYCHIATRIST'S OFFICE...
...IS SOME KIND OF CLUE!
THUPP
WHAT DOES IT REMIND ME OF?
IT'S ON THE TIP OF MY TONGUE...
...LUNAR CITY!
Huh?!
ECLIPSO'S VOICE...FROM MY MOUTH?!
RAWWP
11

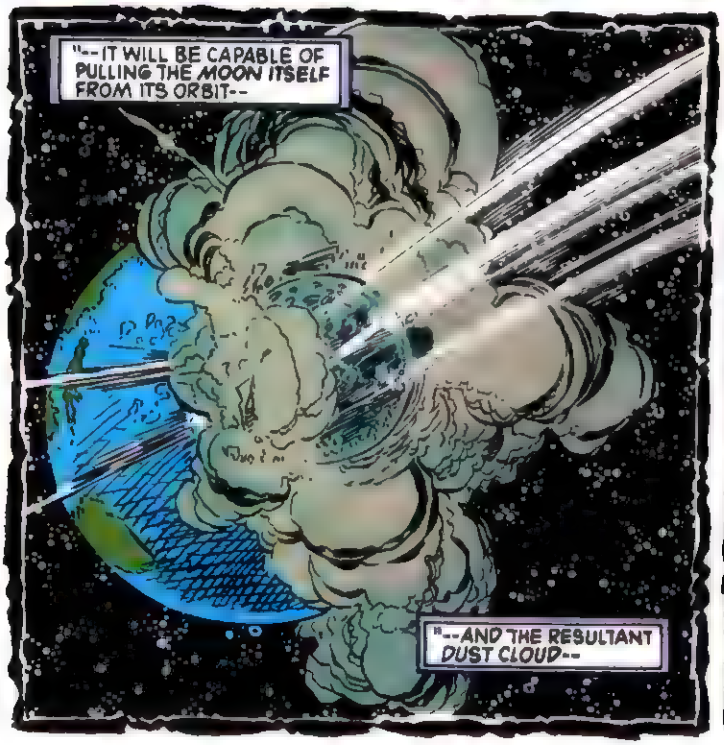

AT LAST I KNOW WHAT I HAVE TO DO!
ECLIPSO CONTROLLED ME FOR MONTHS ON THE MOON, BUT I TOOK AWAY A LITTLE PIECE OF HIM!
AND IT'S THAT LITTLE PIECE THAT I'M GOING TO USE AGAINST HIM HERE ON EARTH--
--TO DESTROY HIM ONCE AND FOR ALL!
NOT EVEN A GOOD-BYE...
...AFTER ALL I'VE DONE FOR HIM!
ERT!
VWOOOSH
BOOM
BOOM
CURIOSITY KILLED THE CAT...
...BUT SATISFACTION BROUGHT IT BACK!
12

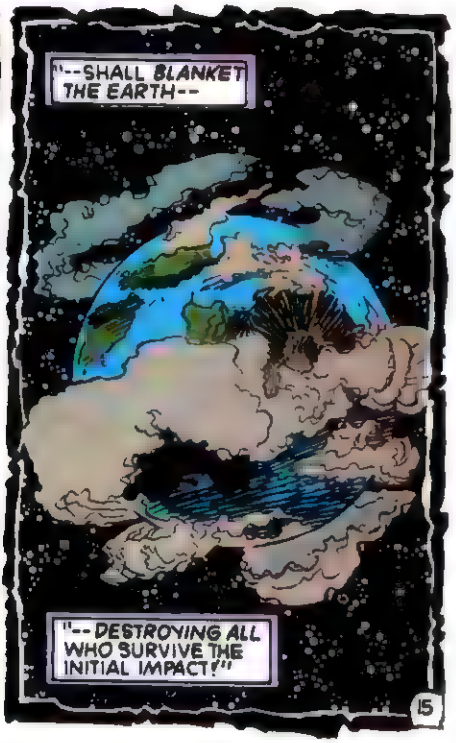

YES, THIS IS IT--
--LUNAR CITY--
--HIDDEN AWAY IN AN IMPENETRABLE SOUTH AMERICAN JUNGLE!
THOSE BIZARRE STRUCTURES RESEMBLE...
...GIGANTIC MAGNETS!
AND I SEE THAT THERE'S A WELCOMING COMMITTEE...

LOOK!
WE--
--HAVE--
--AN--
--UNEXPECTED--
--VISITOR!
YOU MAY HAVE QUESTIONS ABOUT THE PURPOSE OF THIS INSTALLATION, LAR GAND!
IT HAS BEEN YEARS IN THE MAKING!
EVERY PIECE CARRIED IN BY HAND.
BY ECLIPSOS LIKE MYSELF, WHO WERE EVOKED BY HUMANS WHO CAME INTO CONTACT WITH MY BLACK DIAMONDS!
WE WORK AT NIGHT AND HIDE BY DAY FROM THE DEADLY RAYS OF THE ACCURSED SUN!
EVEN SO, WE HAVE ALMOST COMPLETED THIS FACILITY..
BZZT!
BOOP
...AND YOU ARE PRIVILEGED TO WITNESS ITS TEST RUN!
WATCH THE SKIES!
WHAT ARE YOU UP TO, YOU LUNATIC?
14

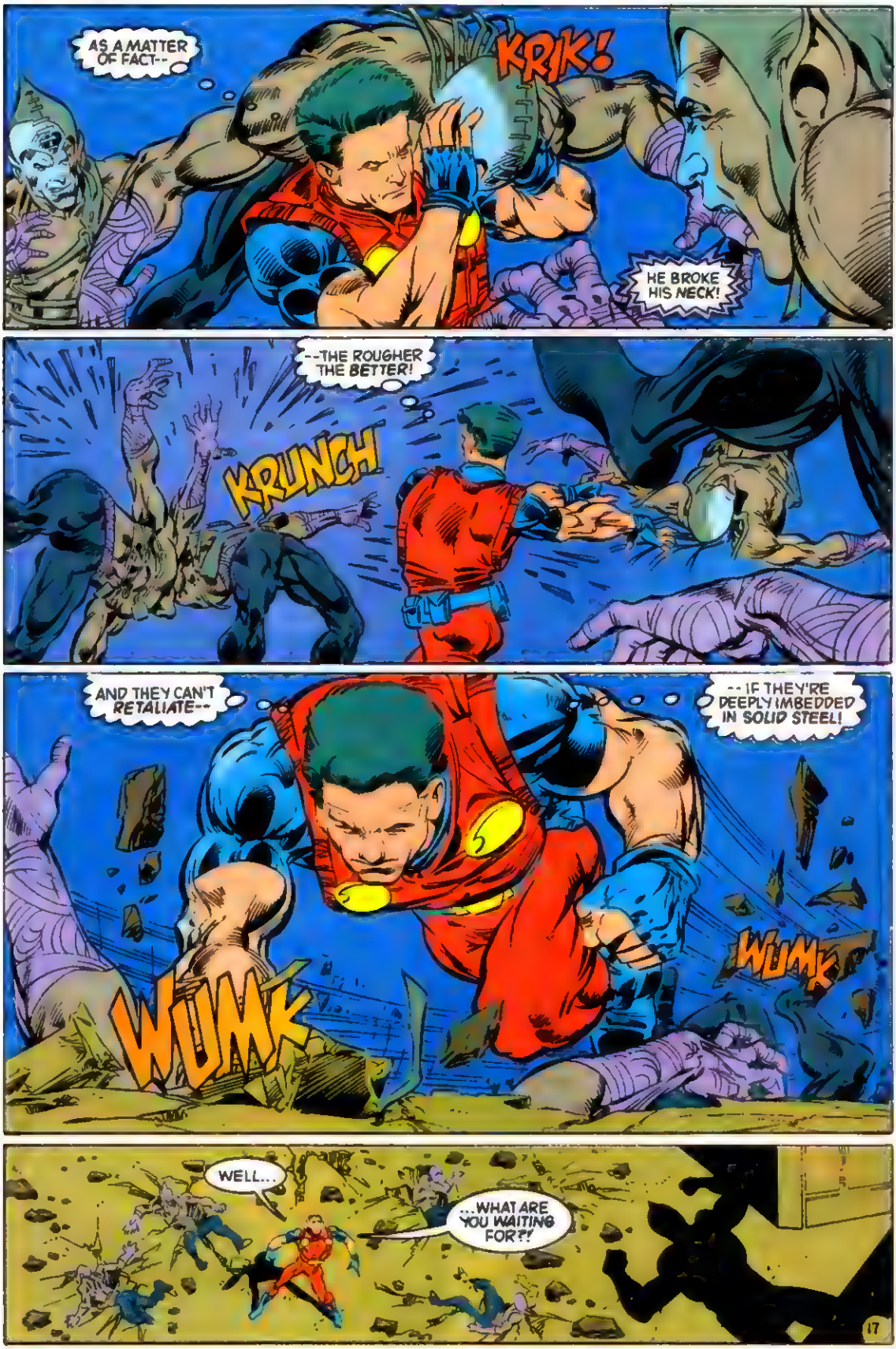
I AM UP TO WHAT I HAVE ALWAYS BEEN UP TO--
ERRR
ERRRRRR
SKREEEEEE
--NO GOOD!
SKA BLAM


"FOR ONCE THIS INSTALLATION IS FULLY OPERATIONAL--


"--IT WILL BE CAPABLE OF PULLING THE MOON ITSELF FROM ITS ORBIT--
"--AND THE RESULTANT DUST CLOUD--

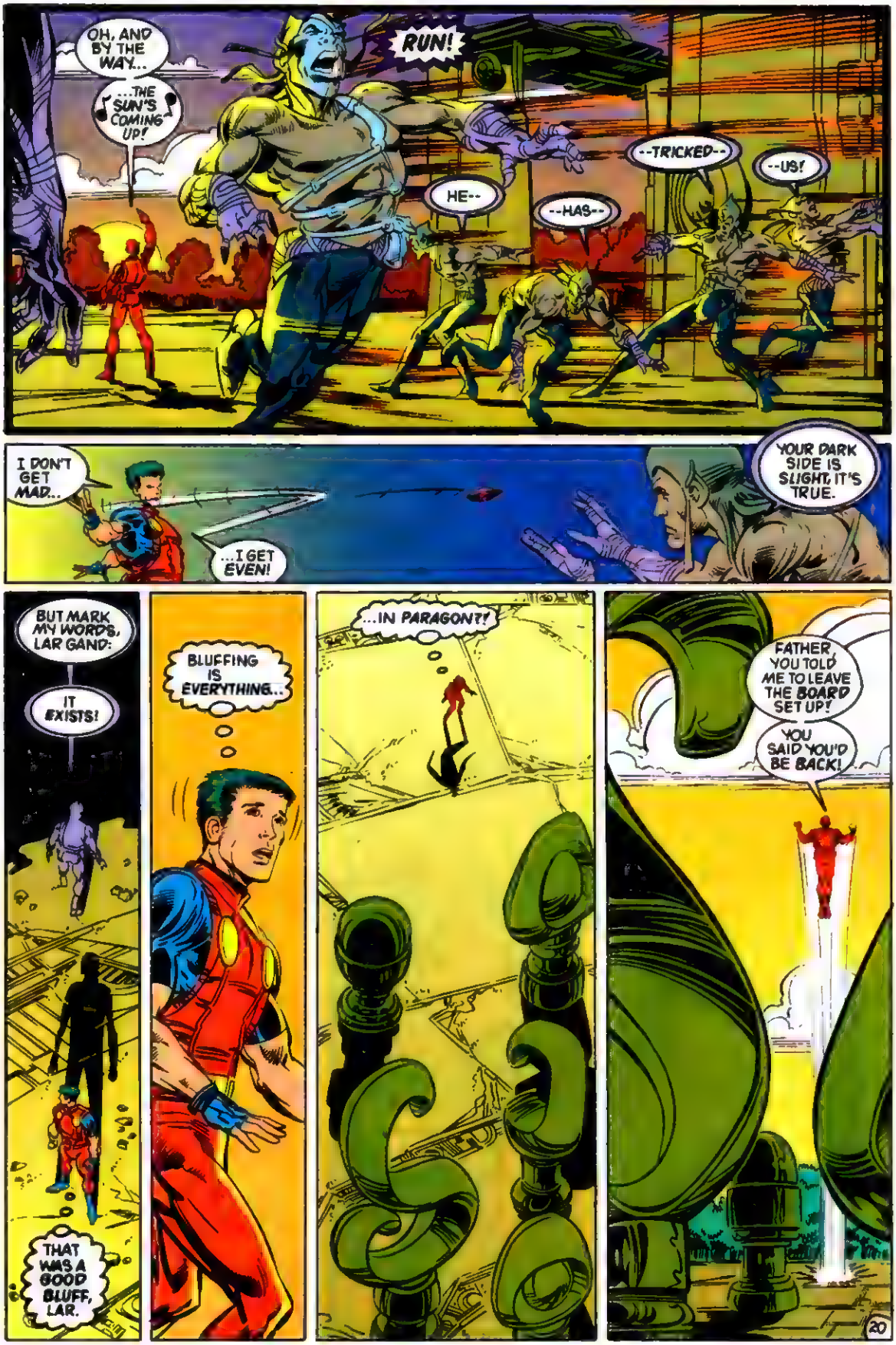

"--SHALL BLANKET THE EARTH--
"--DESTROYING ALL WHO SURVIVE THE INITIAL IMPACT!"

AND THERE IS NOTHING YOU CAN DO TO STOP IT!
HE MAY BE RIGHT...
...BUT I HAVE TO TRY!
THIS IS A GOOD TIME TO TEST MY NEW "HIDE-A-CAPE --
CLICK
CLICK
--PROVIDING ME WITH MAXIMUM FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT!
SCHWUPP
SCHWUPP
LUCKILY, THESE ARE ALL "EVOKED" ECLIPSOS, MEANING THAT THERE ARE NO HUMAN BEINGS INSIDE OF THEM--
...SO I DON'T HAVE TO HOLD BACK!
AIEEEEE!
MY THUMBS!
SNAP!
SNAP!
16


AS A MATTER OF FACT--
KRIK!
HE BROKE HIS NECK!
--THE ROUGHER THE BETTER!
KRUNCH
AND THEY CAN'T RETALIATE--
--IF THEY'RE DEEPLY IMBEDDED IN SOLID STEEL!
WUMK
WUMK
WELL...
...WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR?!

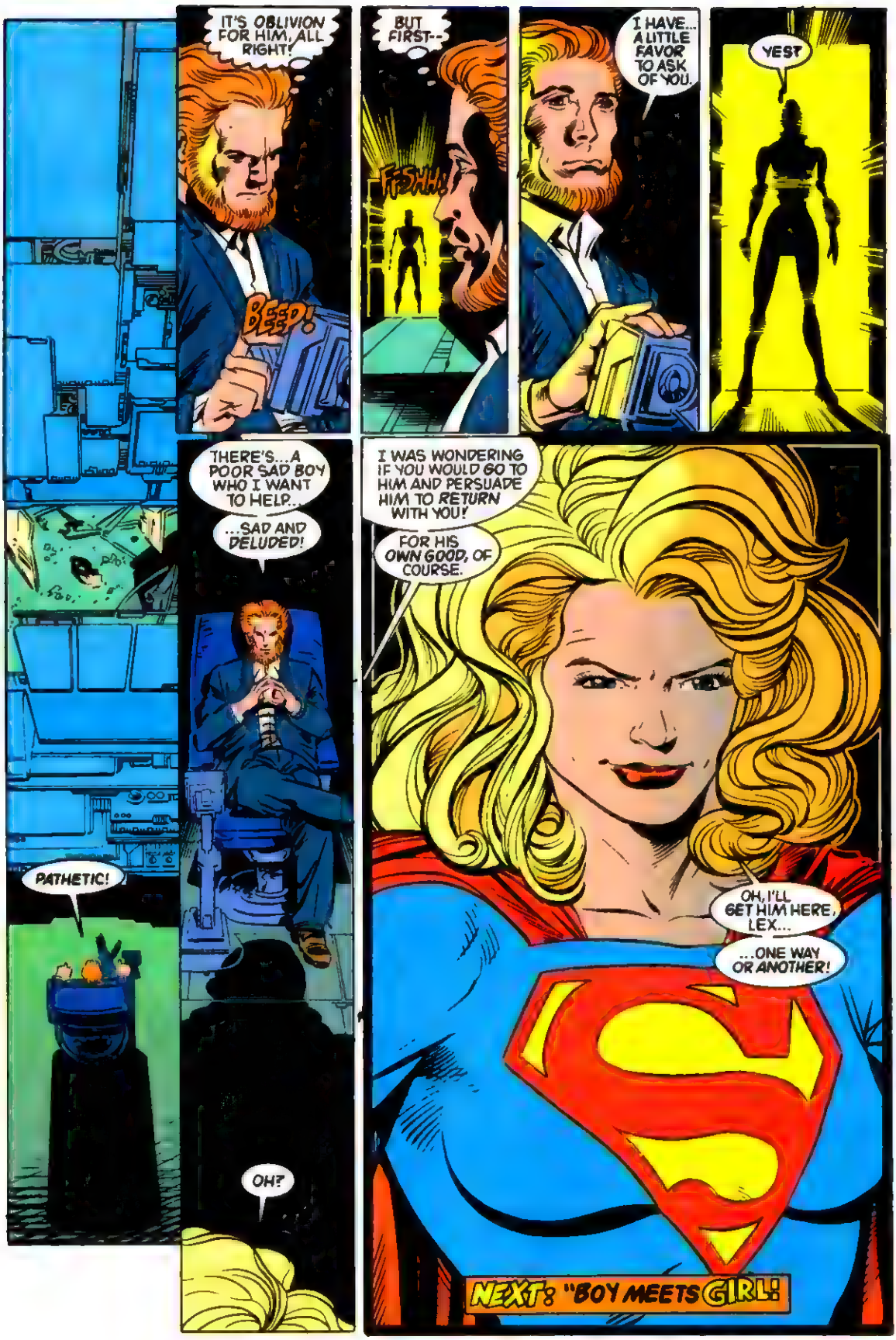
I AM WAITING TO CATCH YOU OFF-BALANCE, LAR GAND!
ARRRGH!
LEAVE IT TO YOU TO JUMP A PERSON FROM BEHIND!
AND NOW, ANOTHER SHOT OF MY LASER-VISION SHOULD--
--HUH?!
NOTHING CAN PENETRATE MY BEAM OF BLACK LIGHT!
EXCEPT, OF COURSE, FOR--
--ME--
--MYSELF--
--AND I!

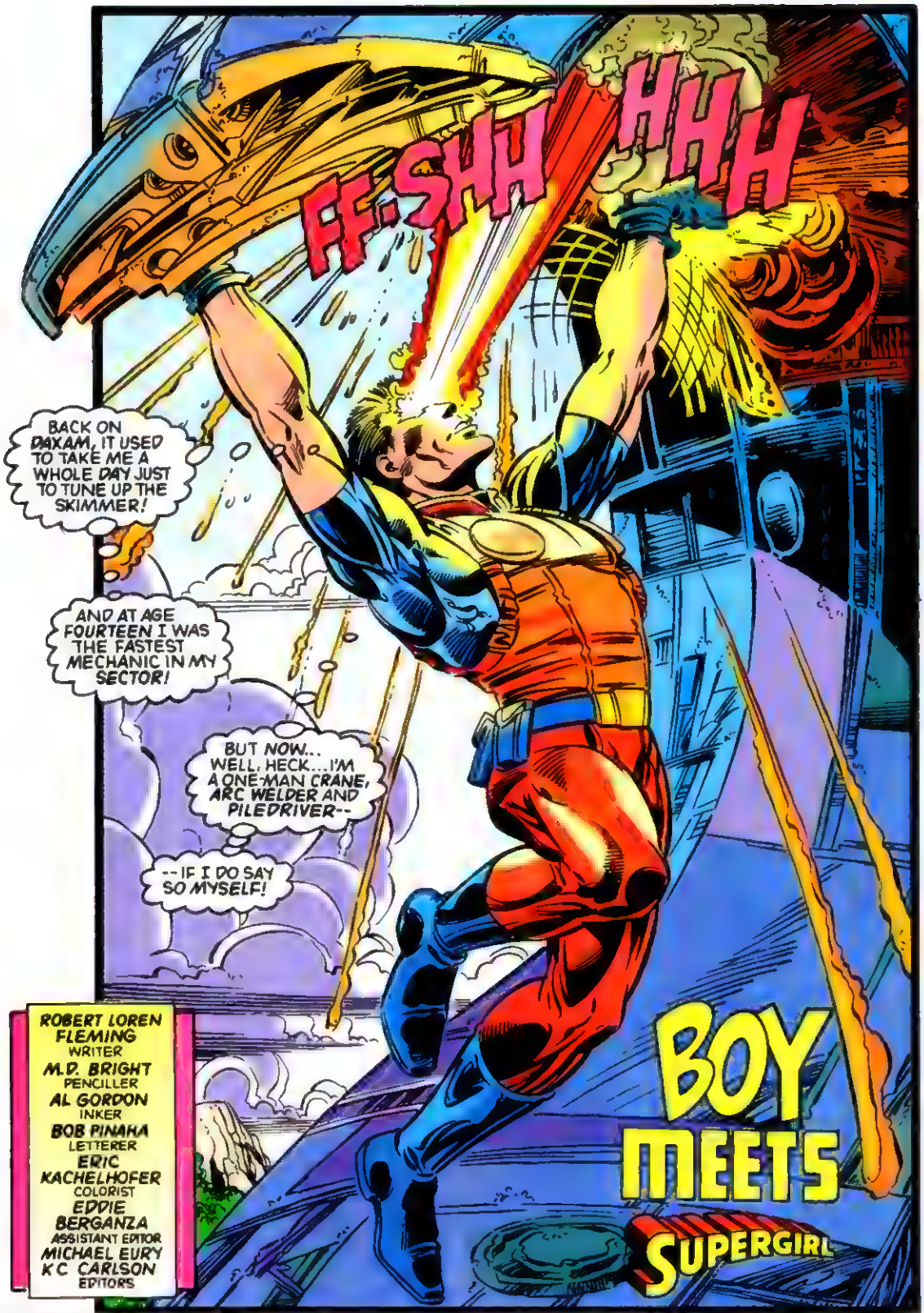
HE'S GOT ME COMPLETELY IMMOBILIZED!
I'D BETTER STALL FOR TIME!
I KNOW WHY YOU WON'T FIGHT FAIR, ECLIPSO!
IT'S BECAUSE YOU'RE AFRAID TO LOSE.
IS THAT SO?
YOU KNOW IT IS!
I'VE BEEN INSIDE YOUR HEAD!
AND I HAVE BEEN INSIDE YOURS.
YOU'RE VERY ANGRY, LAR GAND...
...AT YOUR FATHER!
WH--WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
DON'T BELIEVE IT? THEN TAKE THIS BLACK DIAMOND IN YOUR HAND.
...AND PROVE ME WRONG!
YOU THINK THIS SO-CALLED "ANGER" AT MY FATHER WILL TRIGGER THE GEM AND ALLOW YOU TO CONTROL ME AGAIN?
WELL SEE FOR YOURSELF!
MY FATHER WAS A GREAT MAN AND AN INSPIRATION TO ME!
19


OH, AND BY THE WAY...
...THE SUN'S COMING UP!
RUN!
HE--
--HAS--
--TRICKED--
--US!
I DON'T GET MAD...
...I GET EVEN!
YOUR DARK SIDE IS SLIGHT, IT'S TRUE.
BUT MARK MY WORDS, LAR GAND:
IT EXISTS!
THAT WAS A GOOD BLUFF, LAR.
BLUFFING IS EVERYTHING...
...IN PARAGON?!
FATHER, YOU TOLD ME TO LEAVE THE BOARD SET UP!
YOU SAID YOU'D BE BACK!
20

BUT YOU LIED, FATHER!
YOU'RE NEVER COMING BACK!
THE GAME IS OVER!
AND YOU SHOULD'VE BEEN PROUD OF ME!

Y-YOU SHOULD'VE--
--UH-HUH! UH-HUH!
--B-BEEN--
--PROUD OF ME!
UH-HUH-HUH-HUH-HUH!


IT'S OBLIVION FOR HIM, ALL RIGHT!
BEEP BEEP!
BUT FIRST--
FFSHH!
I HAVE... A LITTLE FAVOR TO ASK OF YOU.
YES?
THERE'S... A POOR SAD BOY WHO I WANT TO HELP...
...SAD AND DELUDED!
PATHETIC!
OH?
I WAS WONDERING IF YOU WOULD GO TO HIM AND PERSUADE HIM TO RETURN WITH YOU!
FOR HIS OWN GOOD, OF COURSE.
OH, I'LL GET HIM HERE, LEX...
...ONE WAY OR ANOTHER!
NEXT: "BOY MEETS GIRL!"


FF-SHH HHH
BACK ON DAXAM, IT USED TO TAKE ME A WHOLE DAY JUST TO TUNE UP THE SKIMMER!
AND AT AGE FOURTEEN I WAS THE FASTEST MECHANIC IN MY SECTOR!
BUT NOW... WELL, HECK... I'M A ONE-MAN CRANE, ARC WELDER AND PILEDRIVER--
--IF I DO SAY SO MYSELF!
BOY MEETS SUPERGIRL

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VALOR 2, December, 1992. Published monthly by DC Comics Inc., 1325 Avenue of the Americas, New York, NY 10019. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to VALOR, DC Comics Subscriptions, P.O. Box 0528, Baldwin, NY 11510. Annual subscription rate $15.00. Canadian subscribers must add $8.00 for postage and GST. GST # is R125921072. All other foreign countries must add $12.00 for postage. U.S. funds only. Copyright © 1992 DC Comics Inc. All Rights Reserved. All characters featured in this issue, the distinctive likenesses thereof, and all related indicia are trademarks of DC Comics Inc. The stories, characters and incidents mentioned in this magazine are entirely fictional. Advertising Representative: Print Advertising Representatives, 355 Lexington Avenue, New York, NY 10017 (212) 949-8850.
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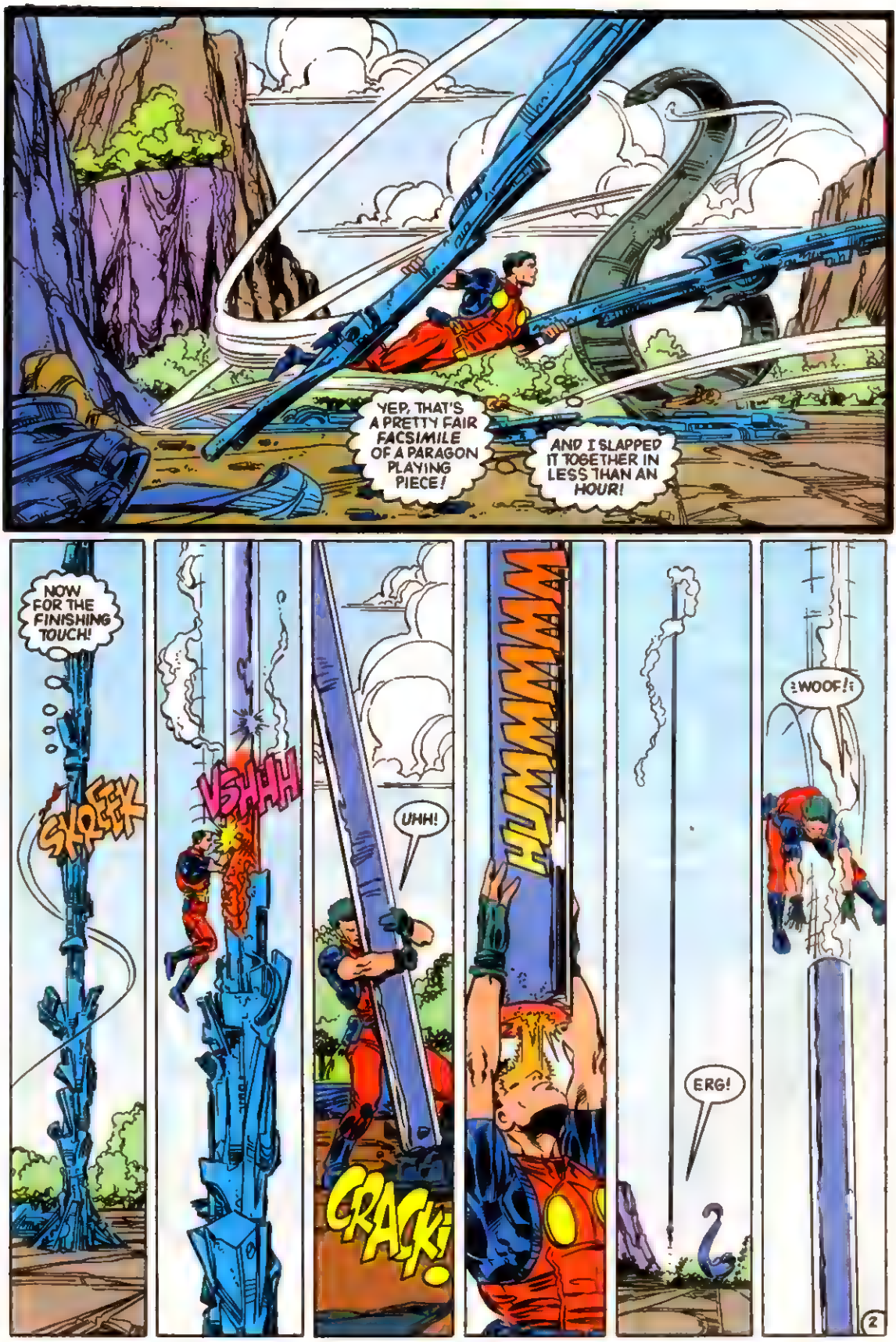
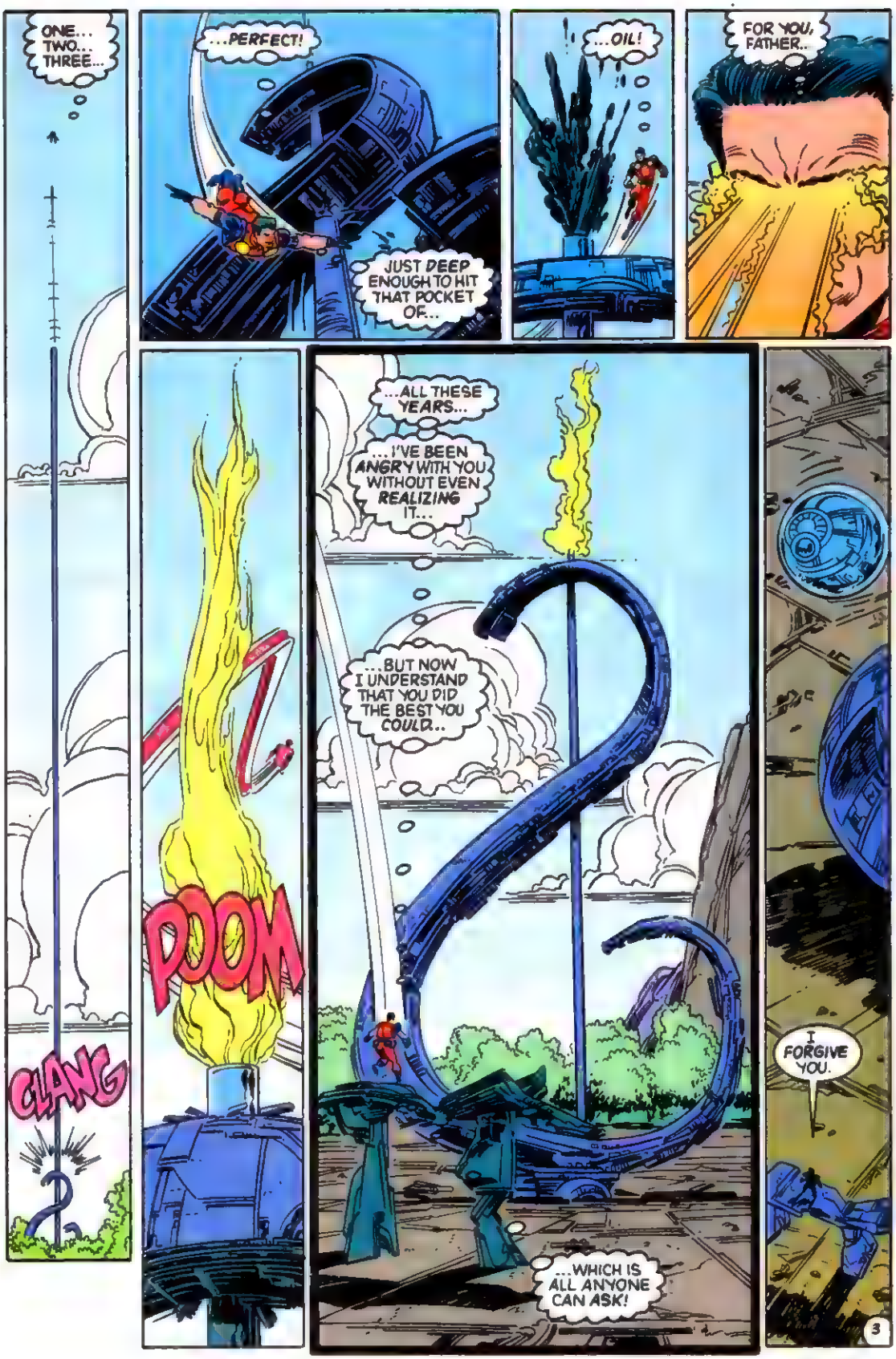
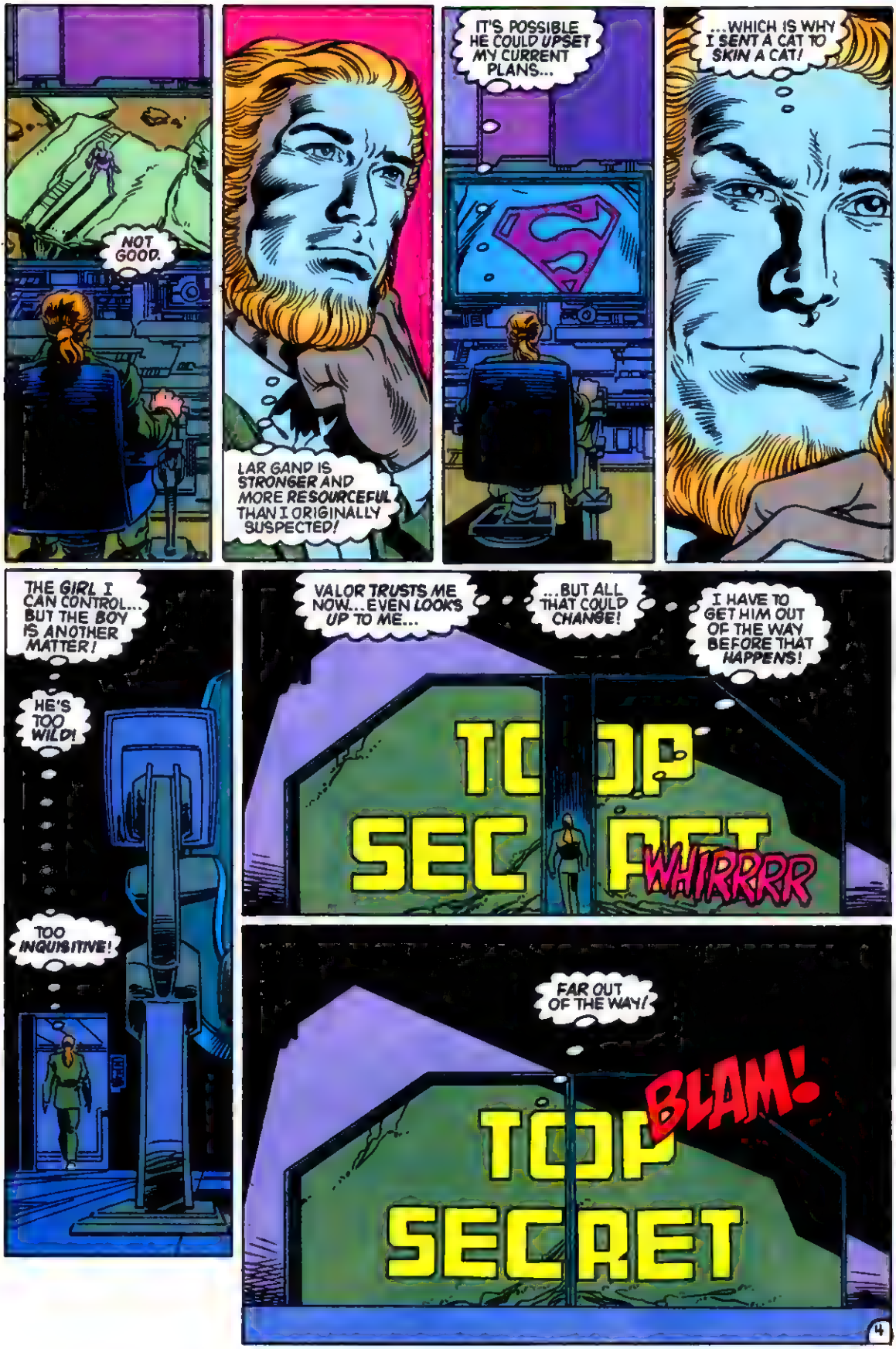
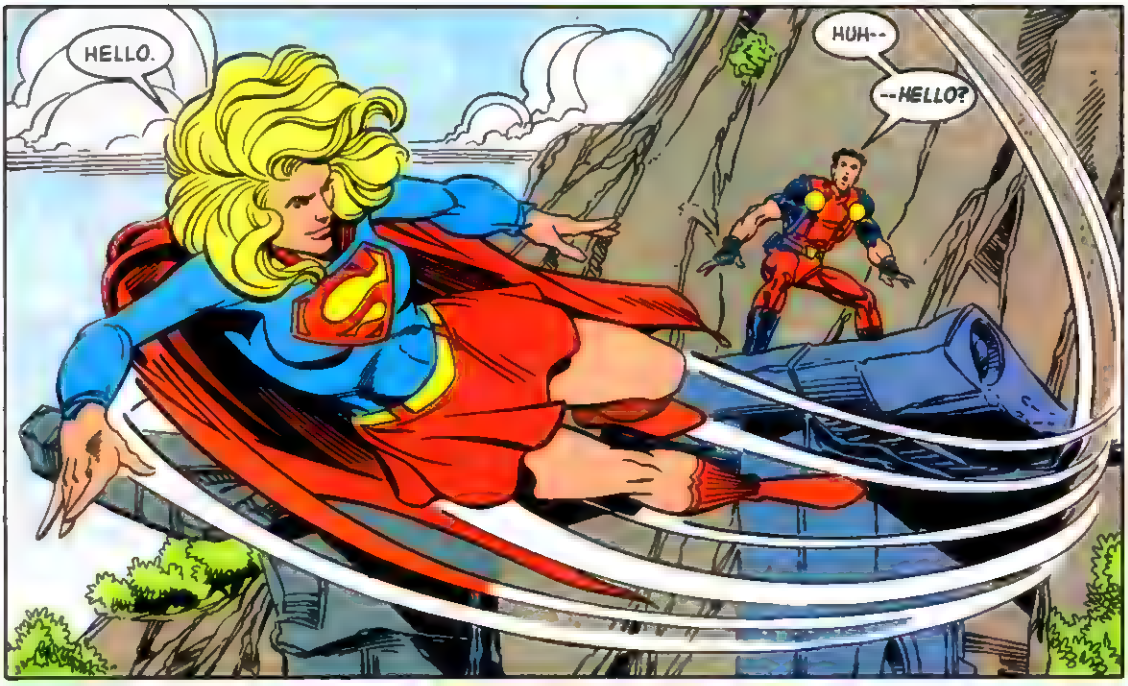
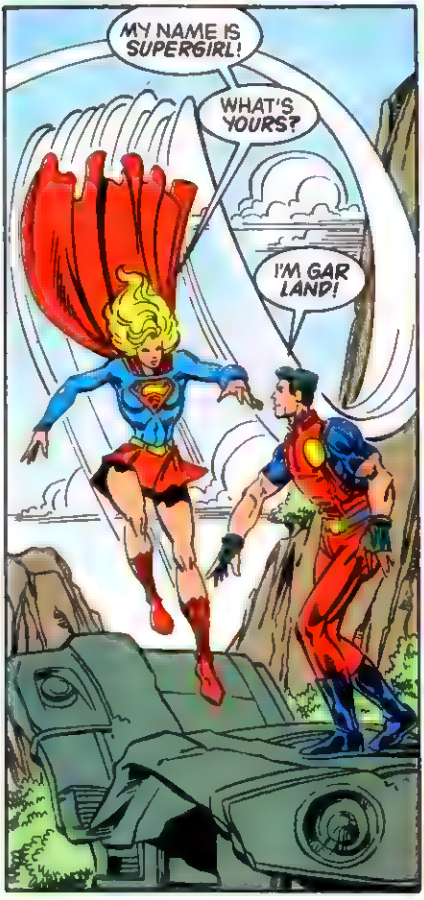
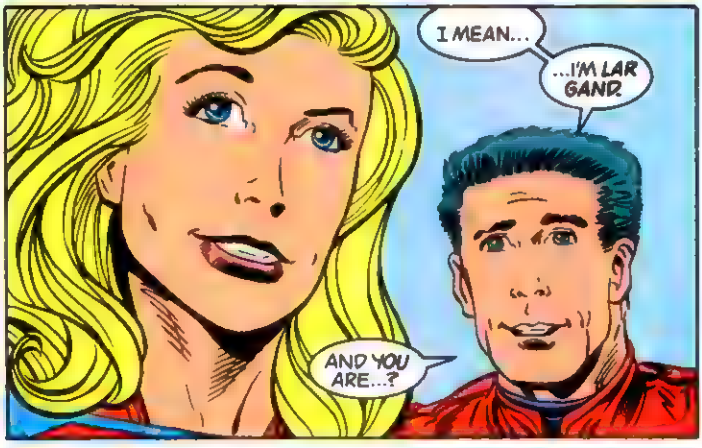

YEP, THAT'S A PRETTY FAIR FACSIMILE OF A PARAGON PLAYING PIECE!
AND I SLAPPED IT TOGETHER IN LESS THAN AN HOUR!
NOW FOR THE FINISHING TOUCH!
SKRIK
VSHHH
UHH!
CRACK!
HMMMMM
ERG!
WOOF!
2

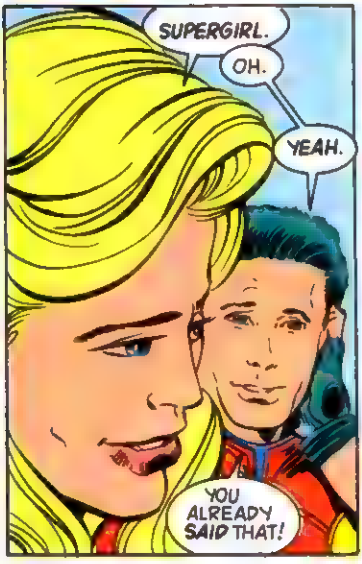

ONE... TWO... THREE...
CLANG
...PERFECT!
JUST DEEP ENOUGH TO HIT THAT POCKET OF...
...OIL!
FOR YOU, FATHER...
POOM
...ALL THESE YEARS...
...I'VE BEEN ANGRY WITH YOU WITHOUT EVEN REALIZING IT...
...BUT NOW I UNDERSTAND THAT YOU DID THE BEST YOU COULD...
...WHICH IS ALL ANYONE CAN ASK!
I FORGIVE YOU.

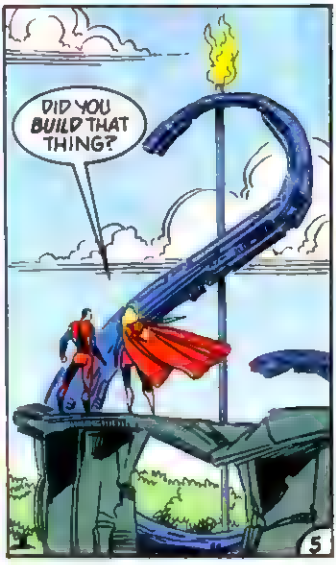

NOT GOOD.
LAR GAND IS STRONGER AND MORE RESOURCEFUL THAN I ORIGINALLY SUSPECTED!
IT'S POSSIBLE HE COULD UPSET MY CURRENT PLANS...
...WHICH IS WHY I SENT A CAT TO SKIN A CAT!
THE GIRL I CAN CONTROL... BUT THE BOY IS ANOTHER MATTER!
HE'S TOO WILD!
TOO INQUISITIVE!
VALOR TRUSTS ME NOW... EVEN LOOKS UP TO ME...
...BUT ALL THAT COULD CHANGE!
I HAVE TO GET HIM OUT OF THE WAY BEFORE THAT HAPPENS!
WHIRRRR
FAR OUT OF THE WAY!
BLAM!
TOP SECRET
4

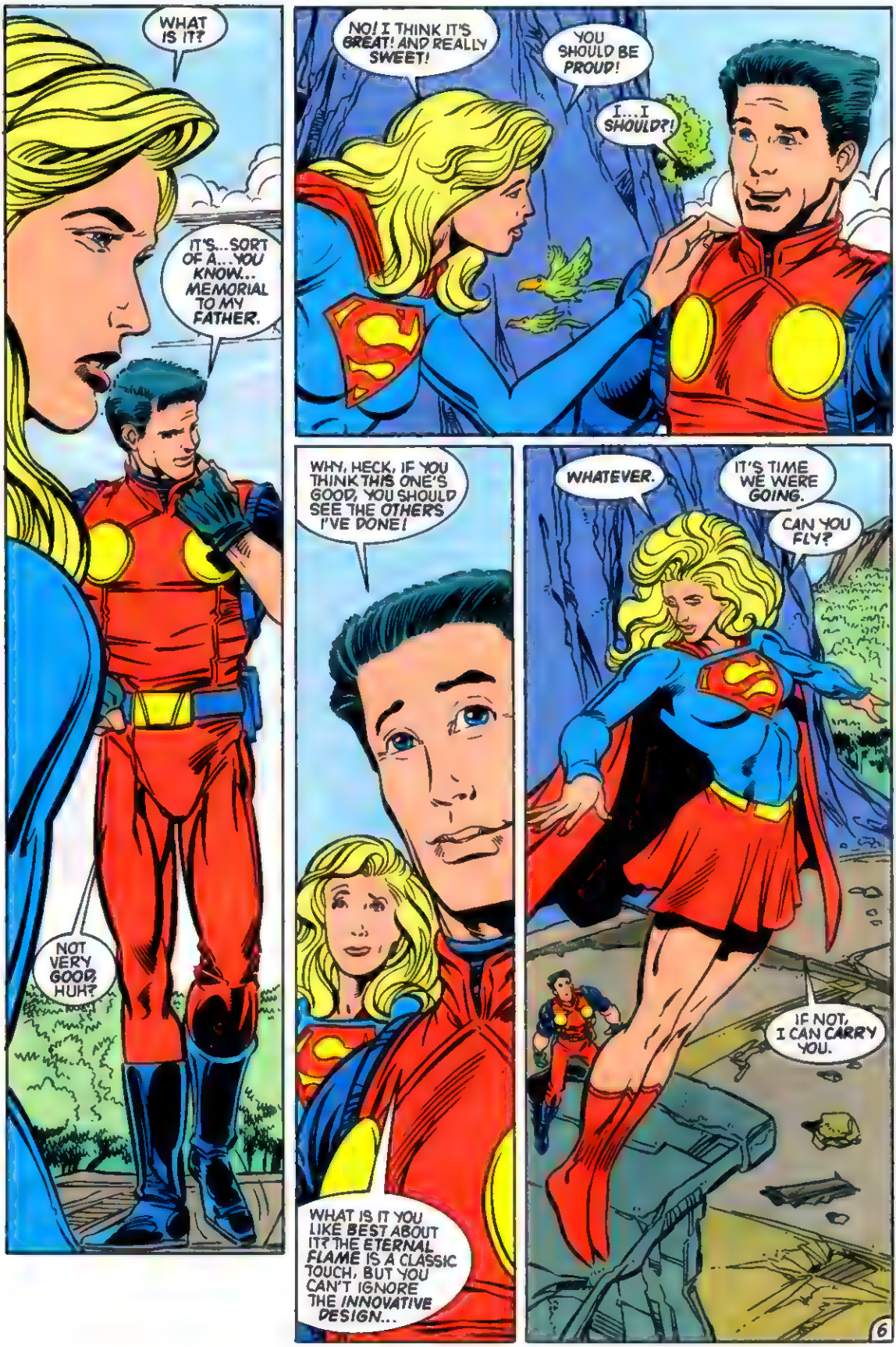

HELLO.
HUH--
--HELLO?

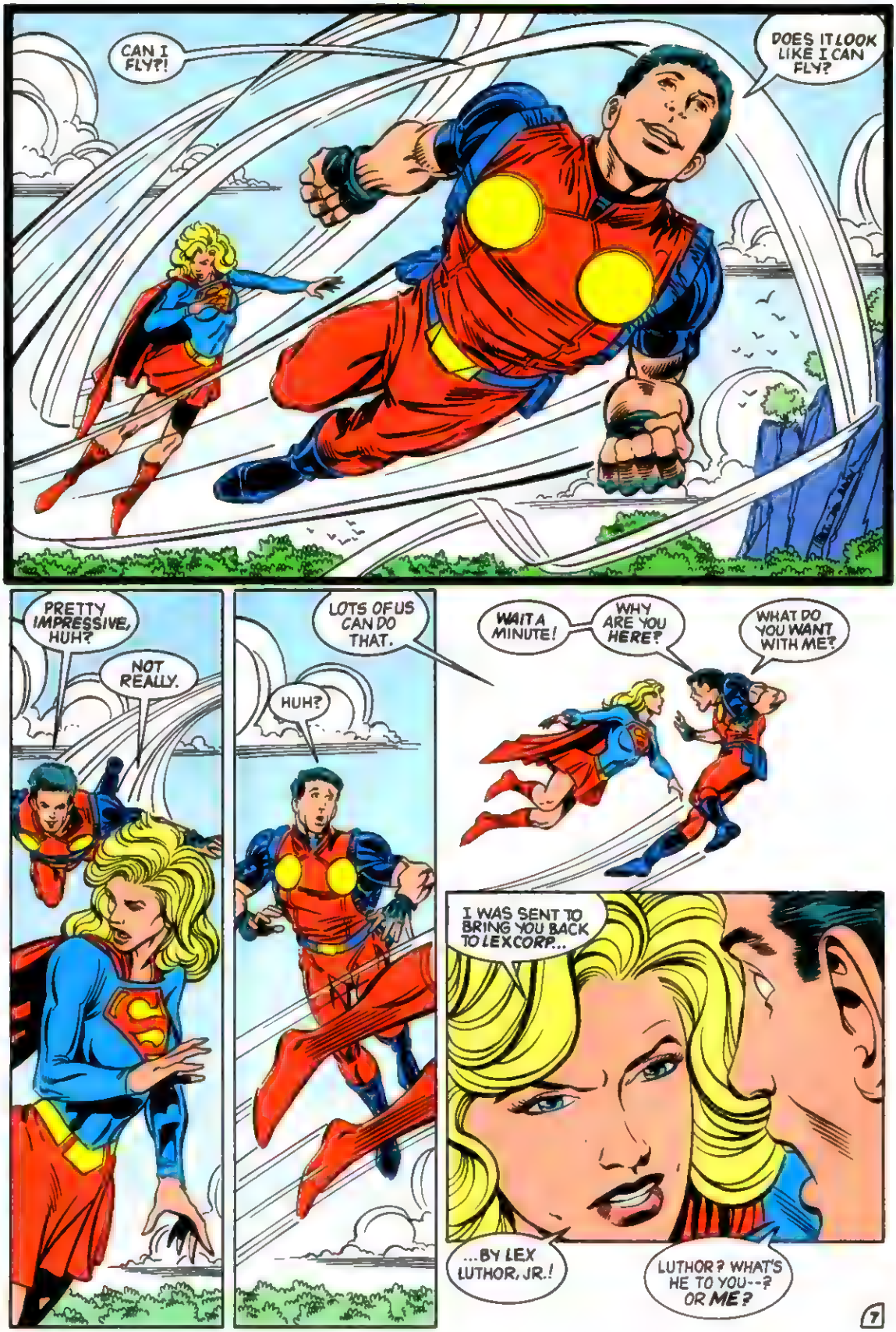

MY NAME IS SUPERGIRL!
WHAT'S YOURS?
I'M GAR LAND!


I MEAN...
...I'M LAR GAND
AND YOU ARE...?

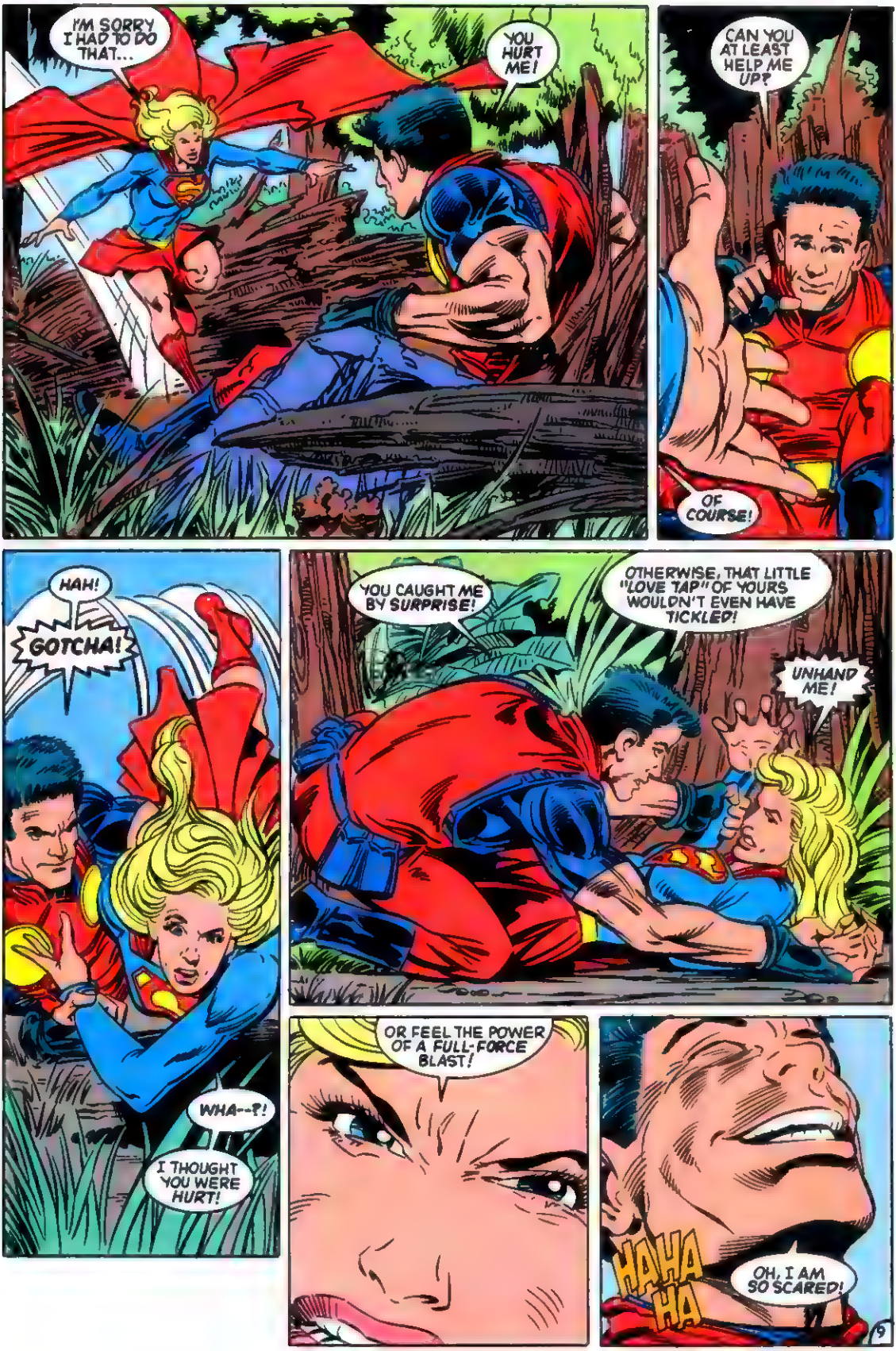

SUPERGIRL.
OH.
YEAH.
YOU ALREADY SAID THAT!


DID YOU BUILD THAT THING?
5

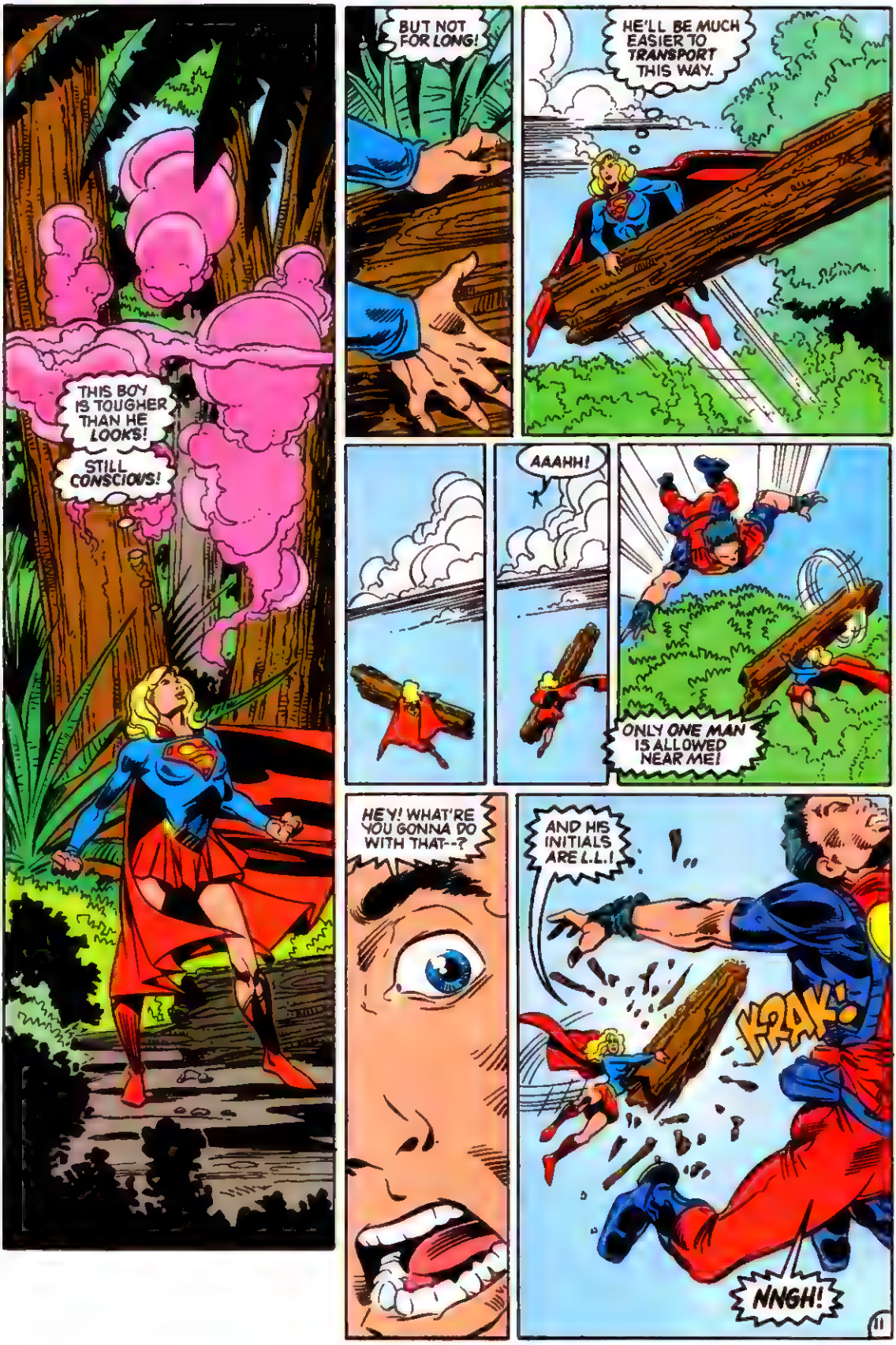

WHAT IS IT?
IT'S...SORT OF A...YOU KNOW... MEMORIAL TO MY FATHER.
NOT VERY GOOD, HUH?
NO! I THINK IT'S GREAT! AND REALLY SWEET!
YOU SHOULD BE PROUD!
I...I SHOULD?!
WHY, HECK, IF YOU THINK THIS ONE'S GOOD, YOU SHOULD SEE THE OTHERS I'VE DONE!
WHAT IS IT YOU LIKE BEST ABOUT IT? THE ETERNAL FLAME IS A CLASSIC TOUCH, BUT YOU CAN'T IGNORE THE INNOVATIVE DESIGN...
WHATEVER.
IT'S TIME WE WERE GOING.
CAN YOU FLY?
IF NOT, I CAN CARRY YOU.
6


CAN I FLY?!
DOES IT LOOK LIKE I CAN FLY?
PRETTY IMPRESSIVE, HUH?
NOT REALLY.
LOTS OF US CAN DO THAT.
HUH?
WAIT A MINUTE!
WHY ARE YOU HERE?
WHAT DO YOU WANT WITH ME?
I WAS SENT TO BRING YOU BACK TO LEXCORP...
...BY LEX LUTHOR, JR.!
LUTHOR? WHAT'S HE TO YOU--? OR ME?

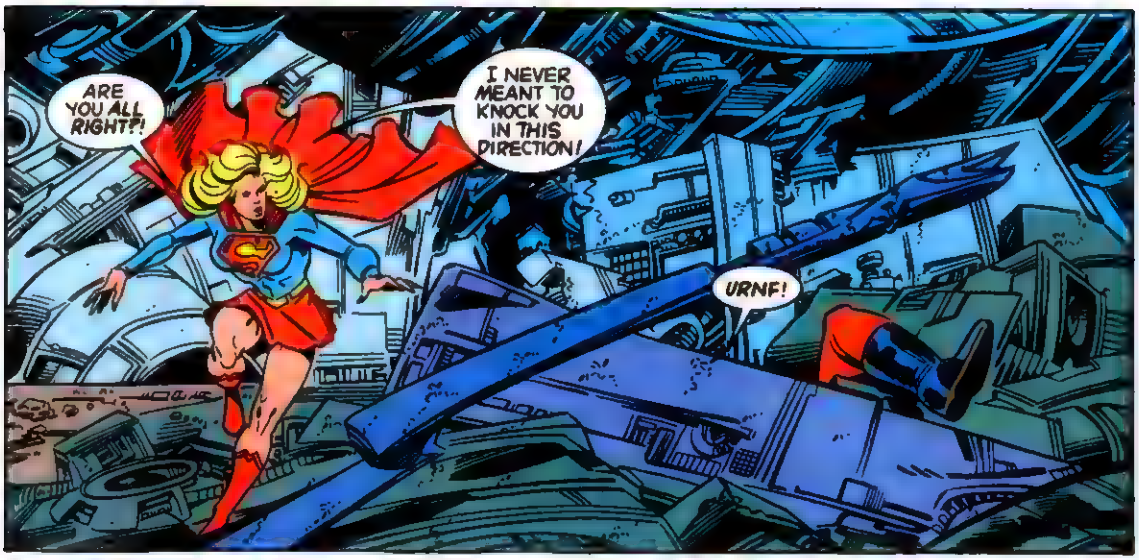
WELL, MAYBE I DON'T WANT TO GO BACK!
MAYBE I HAVE PLANS OF MY OWN!
YOU'LL FOLLOW ME, IF YOU KNOW WHAT'S GOOD FOR YOU!
LET ME GET THIS STRAIGHT...
...YOU'RE THREATENING ME?!
NOW YOU'RE GETTING THE IDEA!
KRACKLE
YEEOWW!
SHE HIT ME...
...WITH SOME KIND OF INCREDIBLY POWERFUL PSYCHO-KINETIC BLAST!
WOW!
KRUNNK
I'VE NEVER MET ANYONE LIKE HER!
8


I'M SORRY I HAD TO DO THAT...
YOU HURT ME!
CAN YOU AT LEAST HELP ME UP?
OF COURSE!
HAH!
GOTCHA!
WHA--?!
I THOUGHT YOU WERE HURT!
YOU CAUGHT ME BY SURPRISE!
OTHERWISE, THAT LITTLE "LOVE TAP" OF YOURS WOULDN'T EVEN HAVE TICKLED!
UNHAND ME!
OR FEEL THE POWER OF A FULL-FORCE BLAST!
HAHA HA
OH, I AM SO SCARED!

AHHHHHHH

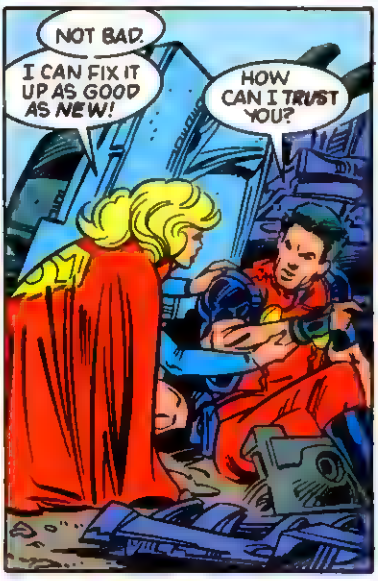

THIS BOY IS TOUGHER THAN HE LOOKS!
STILL CONSCIOUS!
BUT NOT FOR LONG!
HE'LL BE MUCH EASIER TO TRANSPORT THIS WAY.
AAAHH!
ONLY ONE MAN IS ALLOWED NEAR ME!
HEY! WHAT'RE YOU GONNA DO WITH THAT--?
AND HIS INITIALS ARE L.L.!
KRAK!
NNGH!

OH, NO!
LAR GAND! LOOK OUT--
--FOR YOUR FATHER'S MEMORIAL.
KLANG
SCREEECHH


ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?!
I NEVER MEANT TO KNOCK YOU IN THIS DIRECTION!
URNF!

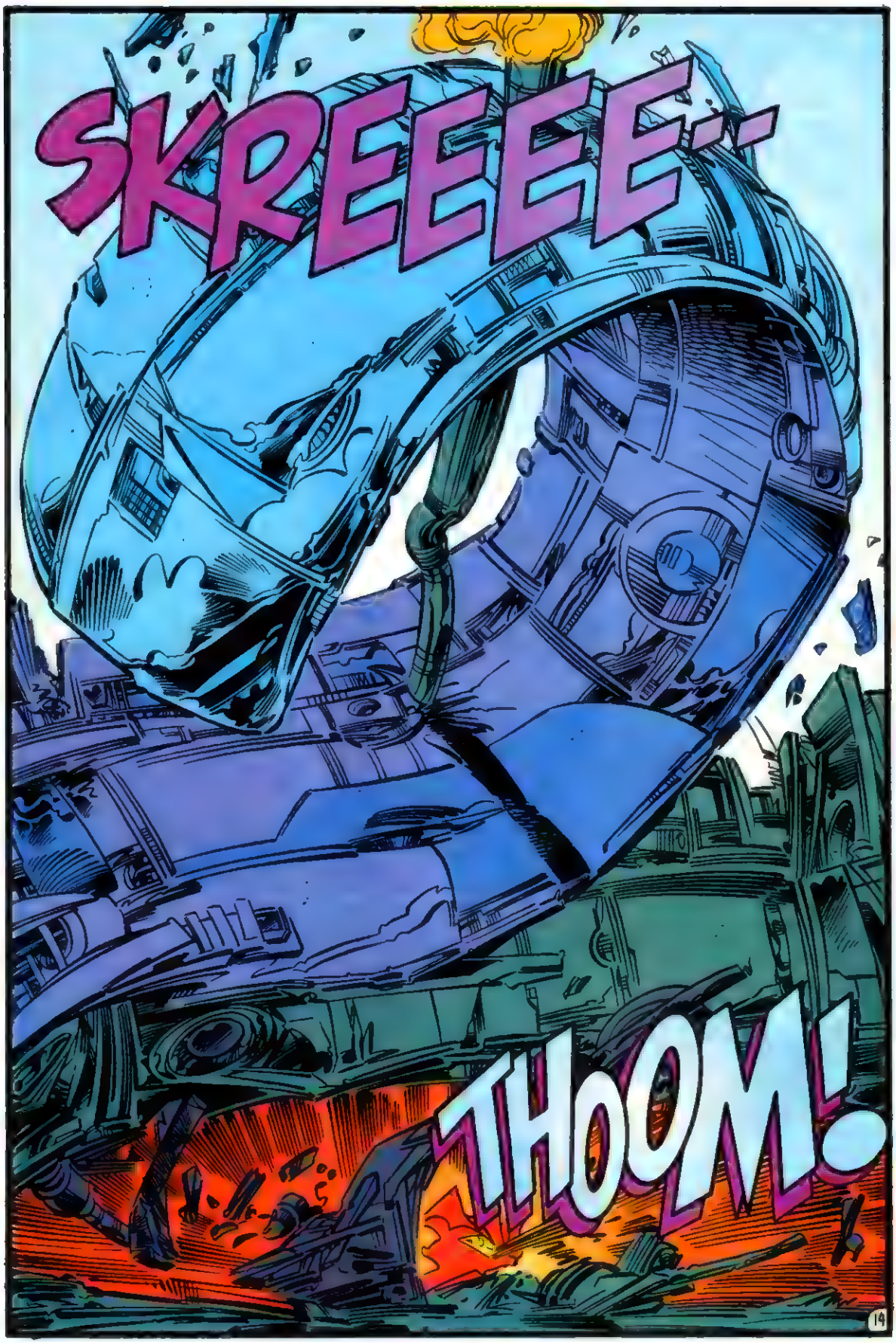
HERE, LET ME HELP YOU!
DON'T BOTHER!
I JUST WANT TO KNOW ONE THING...

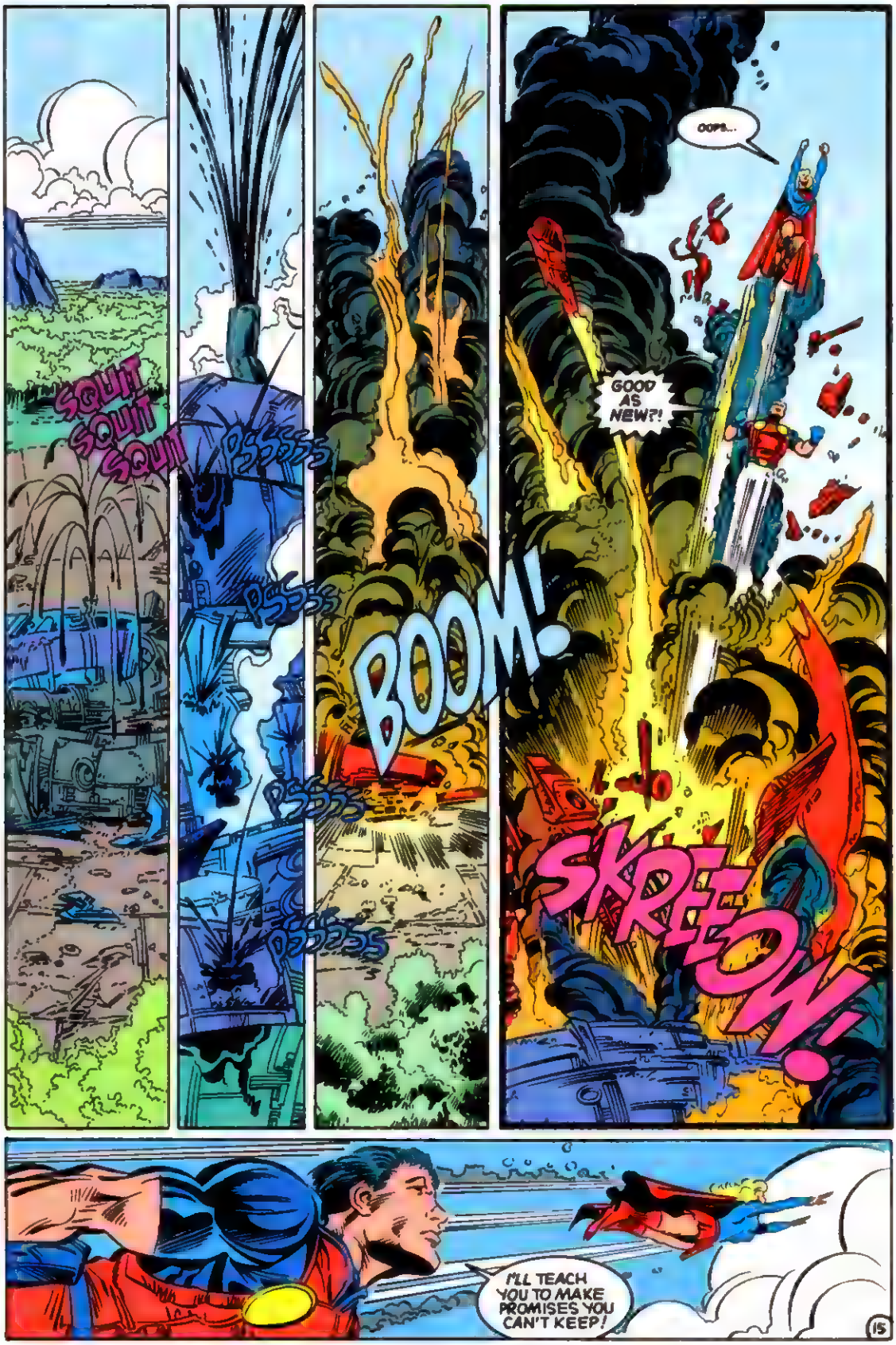
...HOW BAD IS THE DAMAGE?

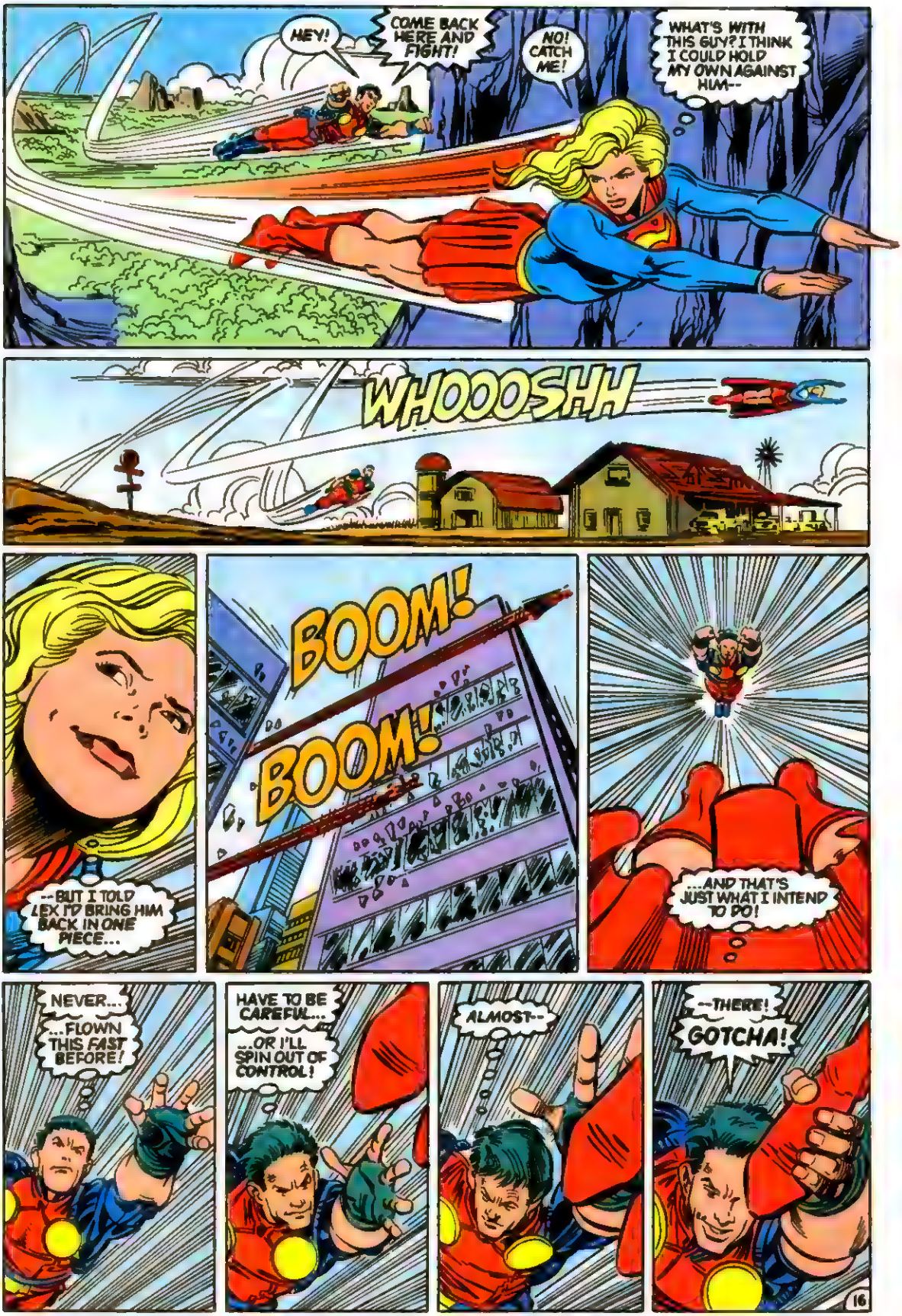

NOT BAD.
I CAN FIX IT UP AS GOOD AS NEW!
HOW CAN I TRUST YOU?

LOOK, I--
--UHH--
KREEAK

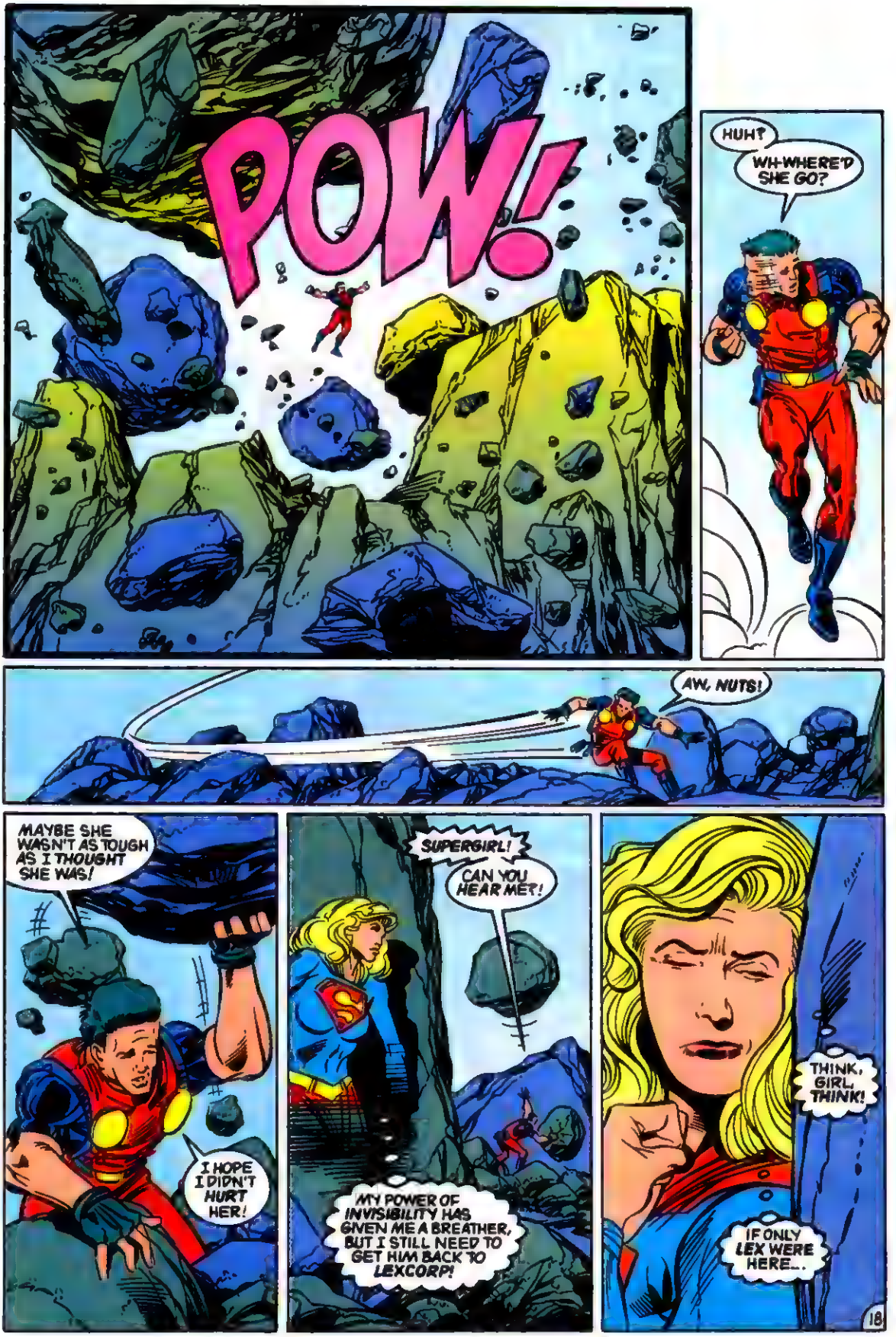
--PROMISE.
13


SKREEEE...
THOOM!

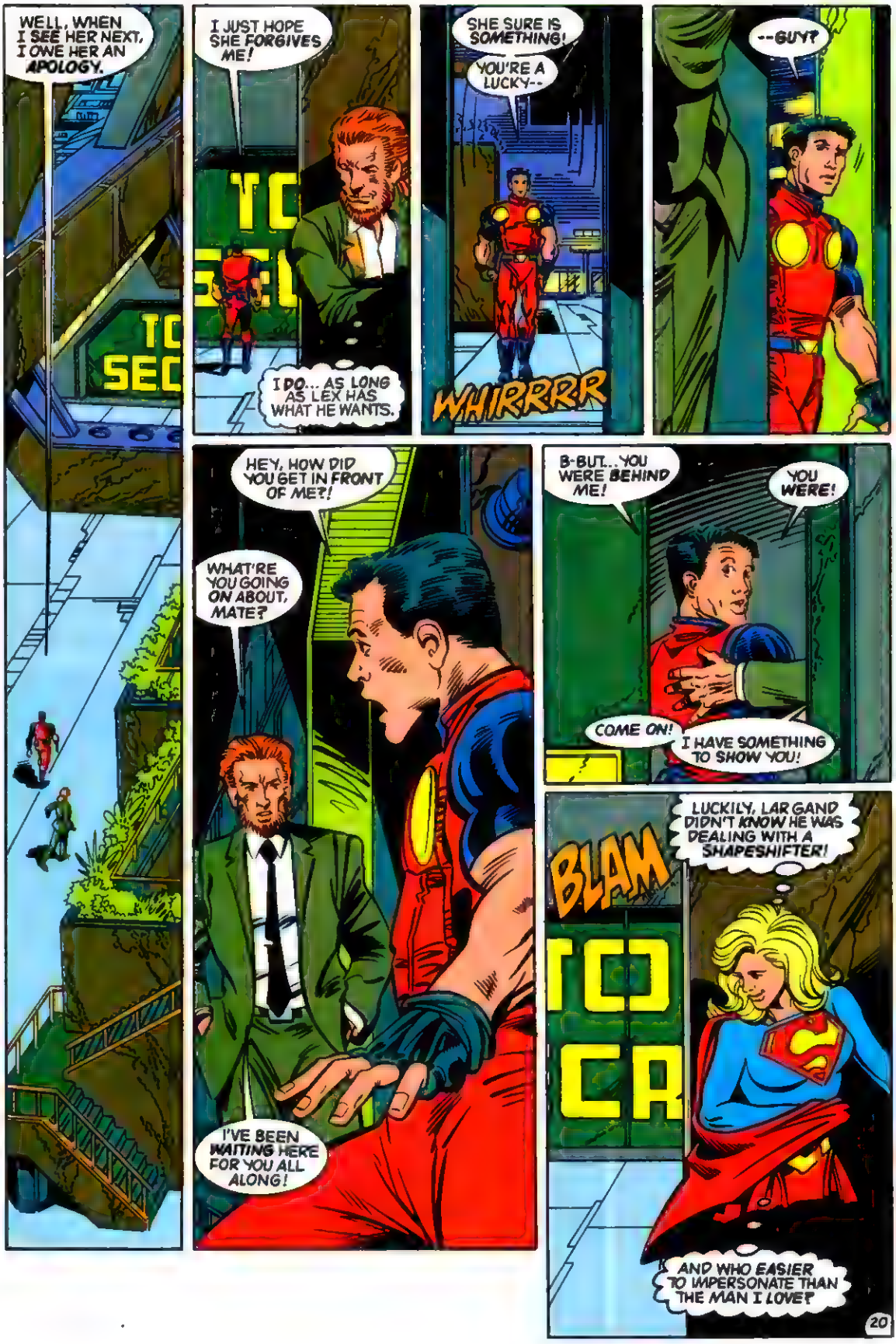

SQUIT SQUIT SQUIT
PSSSSS
PSSSS
BOOM!
PSSSS
PSSSSS
OOPS...
GOOD AS NEW?!
SKREEOW!
I'LL TEACH YOU TO MAKE PROMISES YOU CAN'T KEEP!

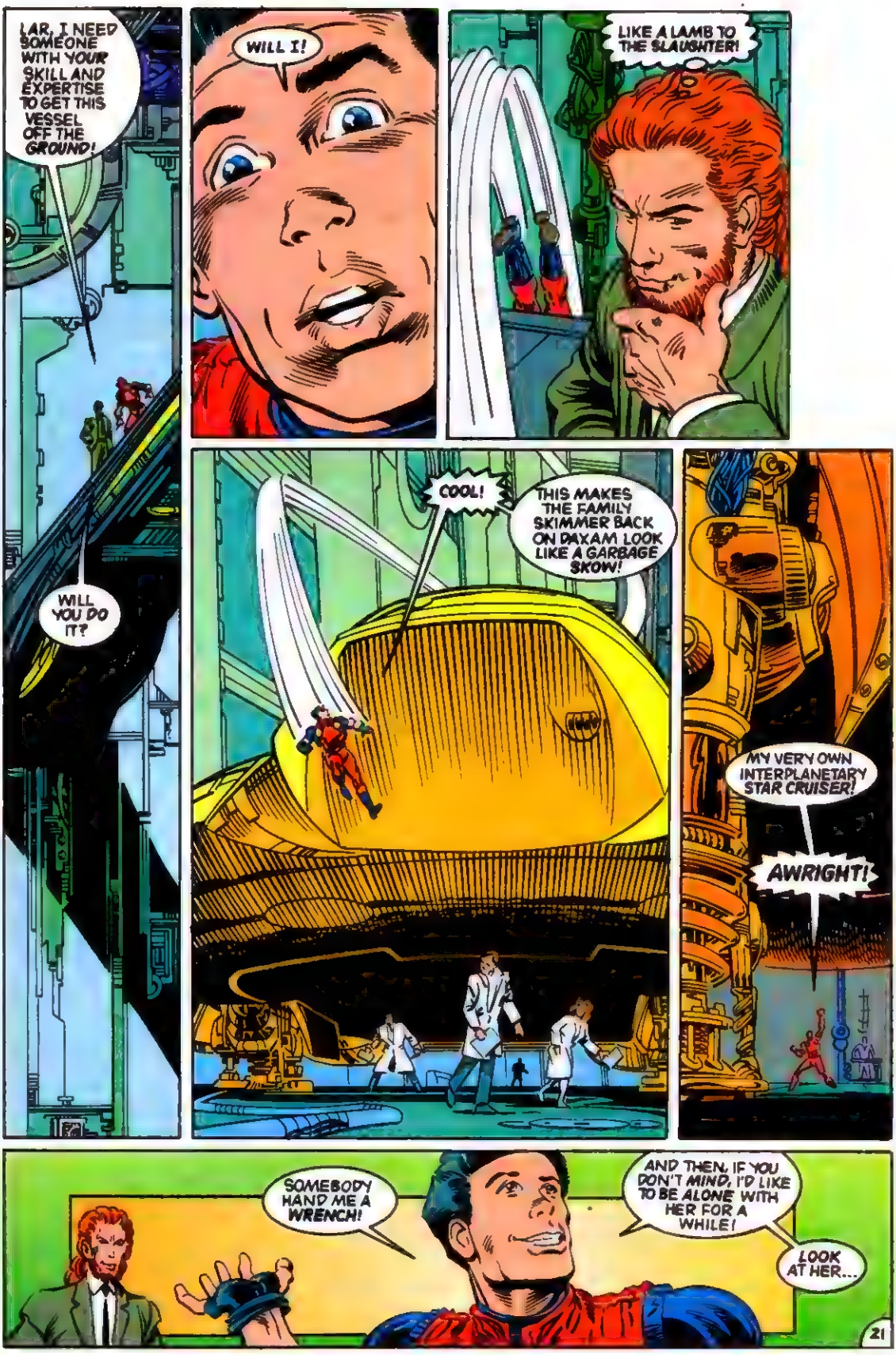

HEY!
COME BACK HERE AND FIGHT!
NO! CATCH ME!
WHAT'S WITH THIS GUY? I THINK I COULD HOLD MY OWN AGAINST HIM--
WHOOOSHH
--BUT I TOLD LEX I'D BRING HIM BACK IN ONE PIECE...
BOOM!
BOOM!
...AND THAT'S JUST WHAT I INTEND TO DO!
NEVER...
...FLOWN THIS FAST BEFORE!
HAVE TO BE CAREFUL...
...OR I'LL SPIN OUT OF CONTROL!
ALMOST--
--THERE!
GOTCHA!
16

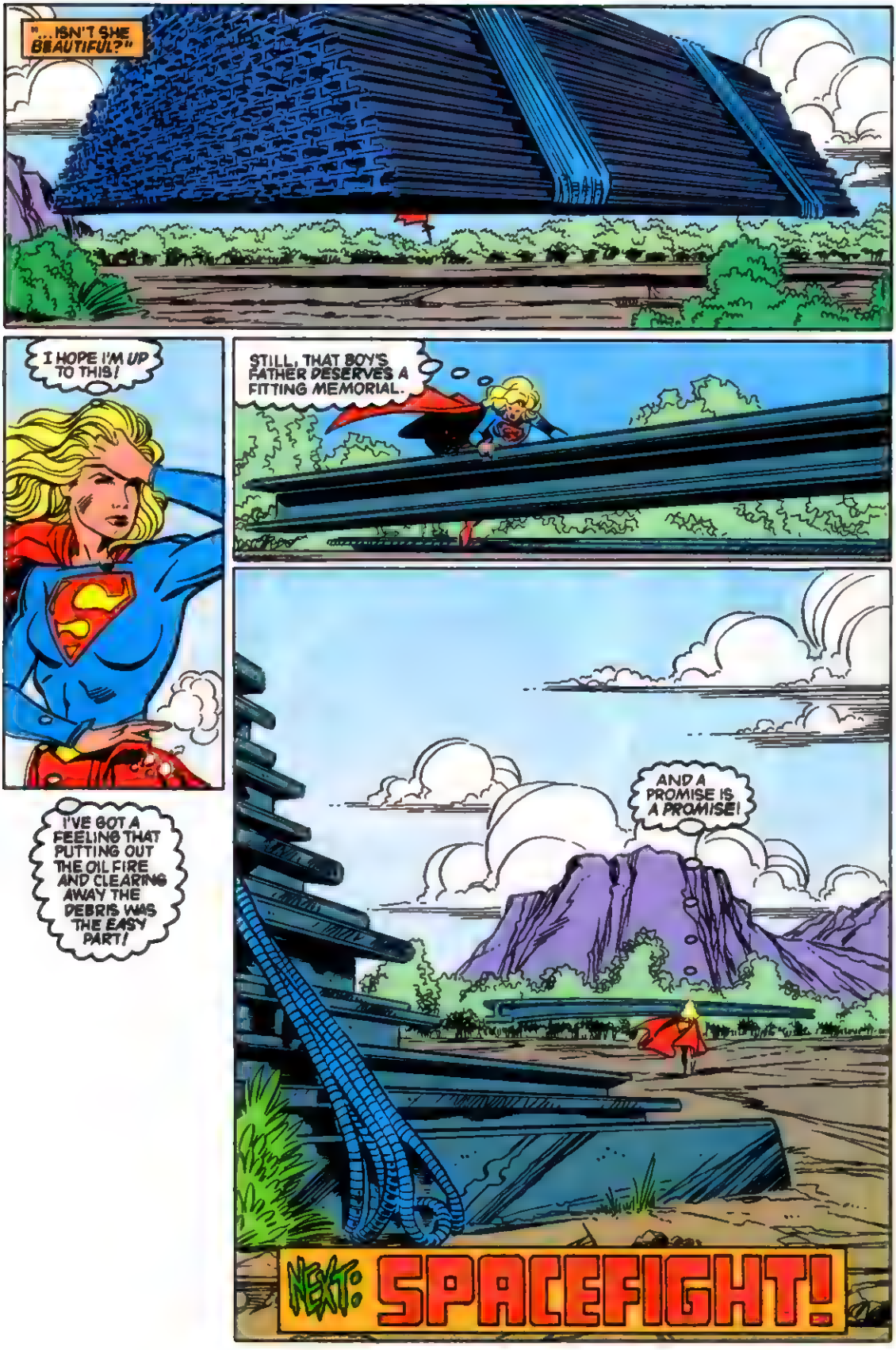
YEOOW!
NO!
I CAN'T--
--STOP!
WHEW!
LOOK OUT BELOOOW!
KRUNCH
TIC TOC
KRRRR


POW!
HUH?
WH-WHERE'D SHE GO?
AW, NUTS!
MAYBE SHE WASN'T AS TOUGH AS I THOUGHT SHE WAS!
I HOPE I DIDN'T HURT HER!
SUPERGIRL!
CAN YOU HEAR ME?!
MY POWER OF INVISIBILITY HAS GIVEN ME A BREATHER, BUT I STILL NEED TO GET HIM BACK TO LEXCORP!
THINK, GIRL, THINK!
IF ONLY LEX WERE HERE...
18

LOOKING FOR SOMEONE, MATE?
YES, I JUST--
--MISTER LUTHOR?!
YOU'RE COMING BACK WITH ME, BOY--
--RIGHT NOW!
OH YEAH?
YEAH.
Uh... OKAY.
I... DIDN'T MEAN TO CAUSE ANY TROUBLE, SIR.
WHEN SUPERGIRL DESTROYED MY FATHER'S MEMORIAL, SOMETHING INSIDE ME JUST SNAPPED.
I SURE HOPE SHE'S OKAY.
SHE IS.
I KNOW IT FOR A FACT, SON.
LEXCORP
19


WELL, WHEN I SEE HER NEXT, I OWE HER AN APOLOGY.
I JUST HOPE SHE FORGIVES ME!
I DO... AS LONG AS LEX HAS WHAT HE WANTS.
SHE SURE IS SOMETHING!
YOU'RE A LUCKY--
WHIRRRR
--GUY?
HEY, HOW DID YOU GET IN FRONT OF ME?!
WHAT'RE YOU GOING ON ABOUT, MATE?
I'VE BEEN WAITING HERE FOR YOU ALL ALONG!
B-BUT... YOU WERE BEHIND ME!
YOU WERE!
COME ON!
I HAVE SOMETHING TO SHOW YOU!
BLAM
LUCKILY, LAR GAND DIDN'T KNOW HE WAS DEALING WITH A SHAPESHIFTER!
AND WHO EASIER TO IMPERSONATE THAN THE MAN I LOVE?


LAR, I NEED SOMEONE WITH YOUR SKILL AND EXPERTISE TO GET THIS VESSEL OFF THE GROUND!
WILL YOU DO IT?
WILL I!
LIKE A LAMB TO THE SLAUGHTER!
COOL!
THIS MAKES THE FAMILY SKIMMER BACK ON DAXAM LOOK LIKE A GARBAGE SKOW!
MY VERY OWN INTERPLANETARY STAR CRUISER!
AWRIGHT!
SOMEBODY HAND ME A WRENCH!
AND THEN, IF YOU DON'T MIND, I'D LIKE TO BE ALONE WITH HER FOR A WHILE!
LOOK AT HER...


"... ISN'T SHE BEAUTIFUL?"
I HOPE I'M UP TO THIS!
I'VE GOT A FEELING THAT PUTTING OUT THE OIL FIRE AND CLEARING AWAY THE DEBRIS WAS THE EASY PART!
STILL, THAT BOY'S FATHER DESERVES A FITTING MEMORIAL.
AND A PROMISE IS A PROMISE!
NEXT: SPACEFIGHT!

VALOR 3. January, 1993 Published monthly by DC Comics Inc., 1325 Avenue of the Americas, New York NY 10019 POSTMASTER Send address changes to VALOR, DC Comics Subscriptions, P.O. Box 0528, Baldwin, NY 11510 Annual subscription rate $15.00 Canadian subscribers must add $8.00 for postage and GST GST # is R125921072. All other foreign countries must add $12.00 for postage. U.S. funds only. Copyright © 1992 DC Comics Inc. All Rights Reserved. All characters featured in this issue, the distinctive likenesses thereof, and all related indicia are trademarks of DC Comics Inc. The stories, characters and incidents mentioned in this magazine are entirely fictional. For advertising space contact: Tom Ballou, (212) 636-5520 Printed on recyclable paper. Printed in Canada.
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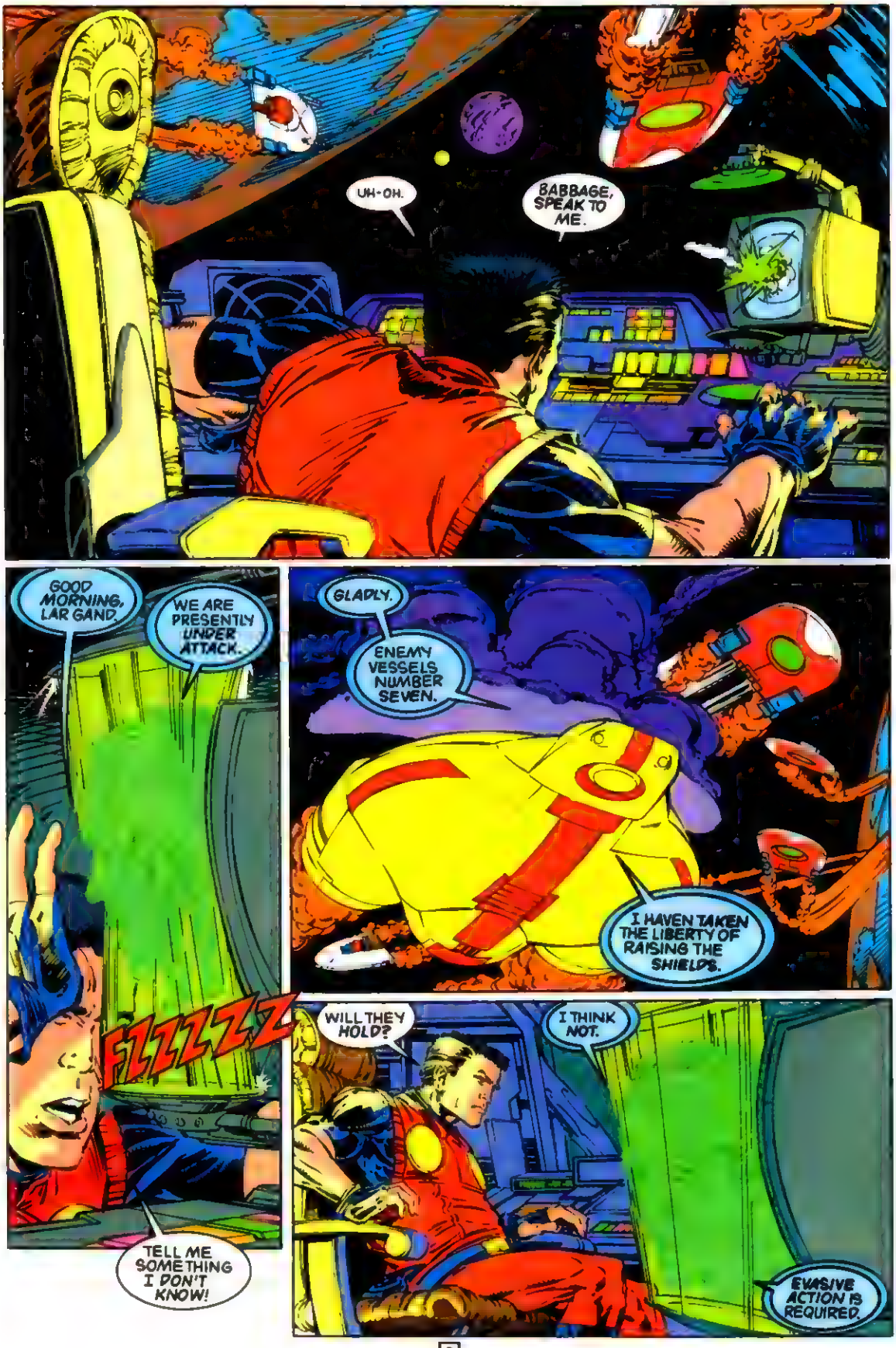
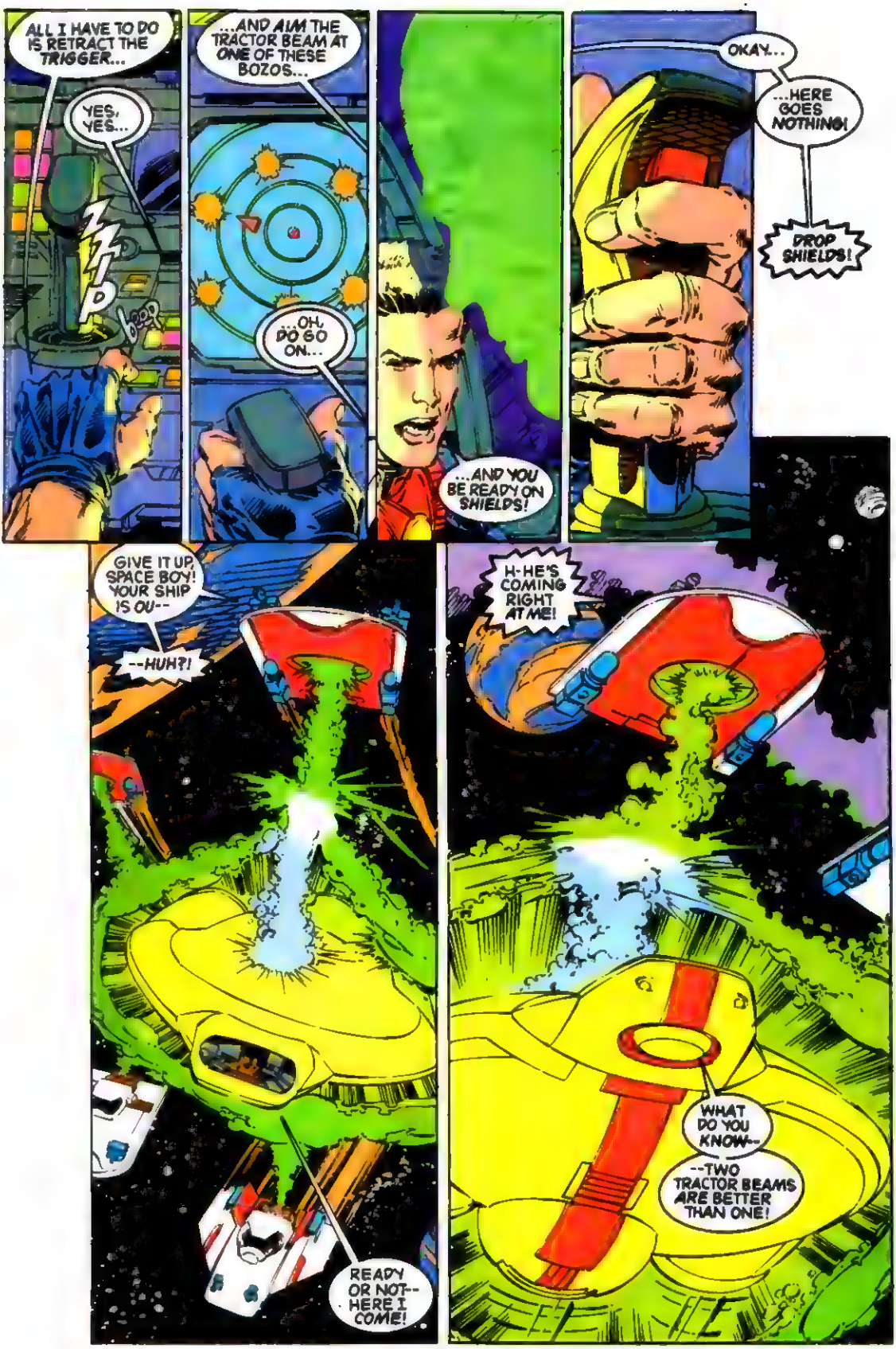

UH-OH.
BABBAGE, SPEAK TO ME.
GOOD MORNING, LAR GAND.
WE ARE PRESENTLY UNDER ATTACK.
GLADLY.
ENEMY VESSELS NUMBER SEVEN.
I HAVEN TAKEN THE LIBERTY OF RAISING THE SHIELDS.
FZZZZZ
TELL ME SOMETHING I DON'T KNOW!
WILL THEY HOLD?
I THINK NOT.
EVASIVE ACTION IS REQUIRED.

EVASIVE ACTION, HUH?
SOUNDS GOOD TO ME! I DIDN'T THINK WE WERE PROGRAMMED FOR EVASIVE ACTION!
WE'RE NOT.
bleep
WHAAAT?
I NOTED THAT IT WAS REQUIRED. I DIDN'T SAY THAT WE HAD ANY!
HOBOY!
SO WHAT'S LEFT? FIGHT IT OUT, SEVEN AGAINST ONE?
SEE HERE!
CALCULATING THE ODDS IS MY JOB!
AND BEATING THEM IS MINE!
OH, REALLY?
BE STILL MY CIRCUITS!
bleep

I GOT ONE!
HOORAY.
STOP BEING SO SARCASTIC AND CALCULATE THE NEW ODDS!
THAT WOULD NOW BE SIX TO ONE.
THANKS...
LISTEN UP, SPACE GYPSIES--
--THE WHITE SPIDER ORDERS YOU TO FORM A "VICIOUS CIRCLE" AROUND THE TARGET...
...AND PREPARE FOR SIMULTANEOUS TRACTOR BEAM ENGAGEMENT!
WE'RE TAKING THIS SHIP INTACT!
ANYONE SCRATCHES HER ANSWERS TO ME!
SHE'S CHERRY!

YOU KNOW YOUR POSITIONS! WAIT FOR MY SIGNAL--
--AND ENGAGE TRACTORS IN 3...2...1...
...NOW!
KRUNK
AHOY THERE!
I AM THE WHITE SPIDER...
...NEW OWNER OF YOUR VESSEL!
PERFECT.
TARGET IS COMPLETELY IMMOBILIZED!

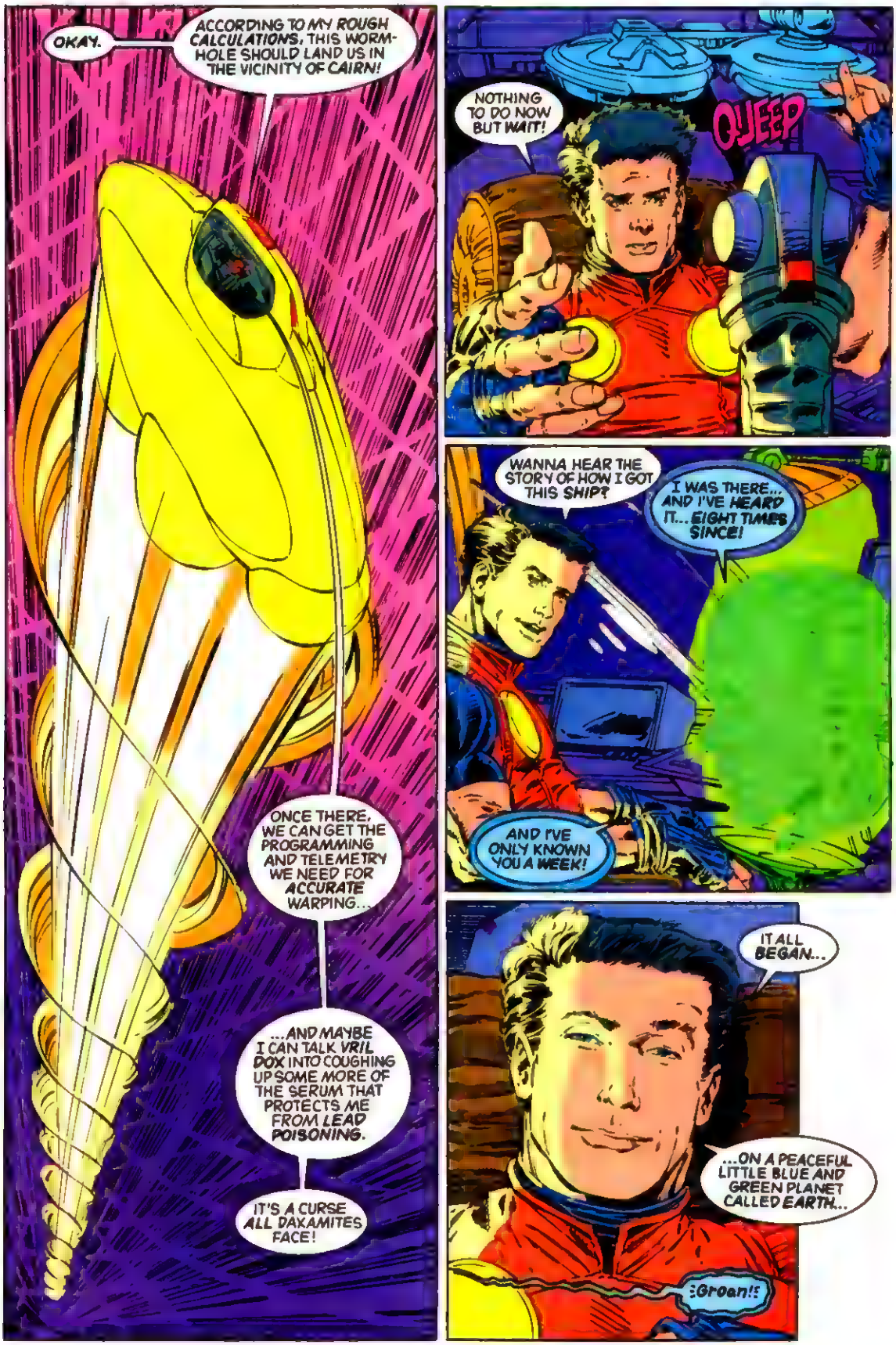
THE HECK YOU ARE, SPIDER!
HA, HA, HA--
--WELCOME TO THE "VICIOUS CIRCLE," BUCKO!
NUTS! THEY'VE SOMEHOW CALCULATED THE TRAJECTORY OF OUR GUNFIRE AND POSITIONED THEMSELVES OUT OF RANGE!
WHAT NOW?
OOOH! WE GOT A LIVE ONE! HE'S ACTUALLY TRYING TO FIGHT BACK!
I'VE GOT IT!
OUR GUNS ARE IN FIXED POSITIONS, RIGHT?
RIGHT.
BUT THE TRACTOR BEAM ASSEMBLY IS ON A THREE HUNDRED AND SIXTY DEGREE SWIVEL!
I DESIGNED IT MYSELF!
THE UNIVERSE IS IN DEBT TO YOU, SIR...
... BUT, I'M BEGINNING TO SEE WHAT YOU'RE DRIVING AT!


ALL I HAVE TO DO IS RETRACT THE TRIGGER...
YES, YES...
ZIP
BOOP
...AND AIM THE TRACTOR BEAM AT ONE OF THESE BOZOS...
...OH, DO GO ON...
...AND YOU BE READY ON SHIELDS!
OKAY...
...HERE GOES NOTHING!
DROP SHIELDS!
GIVE IT UP, SPACE BOY! YOUR SHIP IS OU--
--HUH?!
READY OR NOT-- HERE I COME!
H-HE'S COMING RIGHT AT ME!
WHAT DO YOU KNOW--
--TWO TRACTOR BEAMS ARE BETTER THAN ONE!

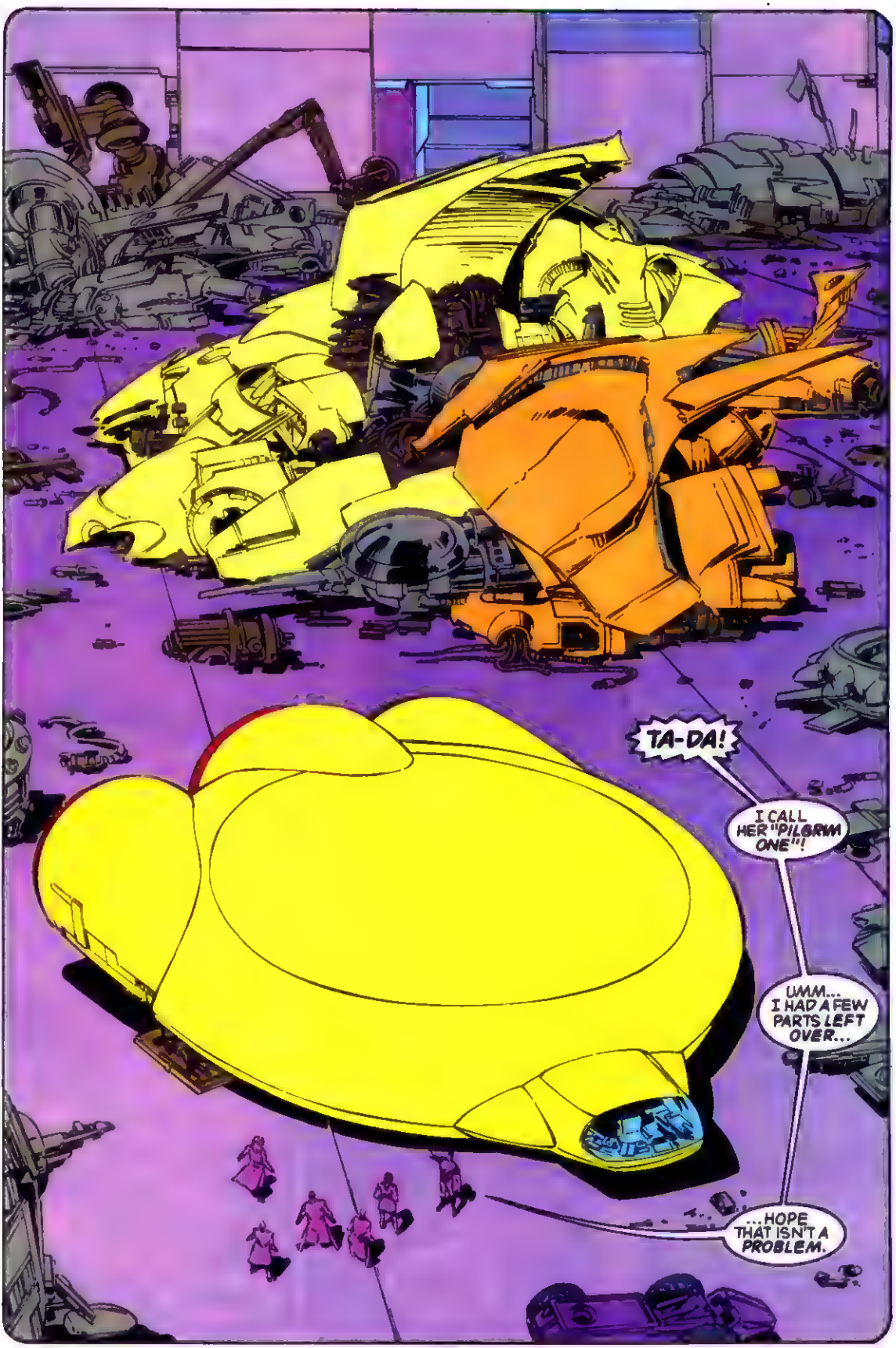
NOW--RIGHT BEFORE WE COLLIDE--I'M GOING TO CUT THE TRACTOR AND YOU RAISE SHIELDS!
ON THE COUNT OF THREE...
ARE YOU UP TO IT, SIR?
ONE...
...TWO...
...TWO AND A HALF...
THIS GUY IS CRAZY! WE'RE GONNA CRASH!
GOTTA--
KLIK KLIK
...THREE!
RAISE SHIELDS!

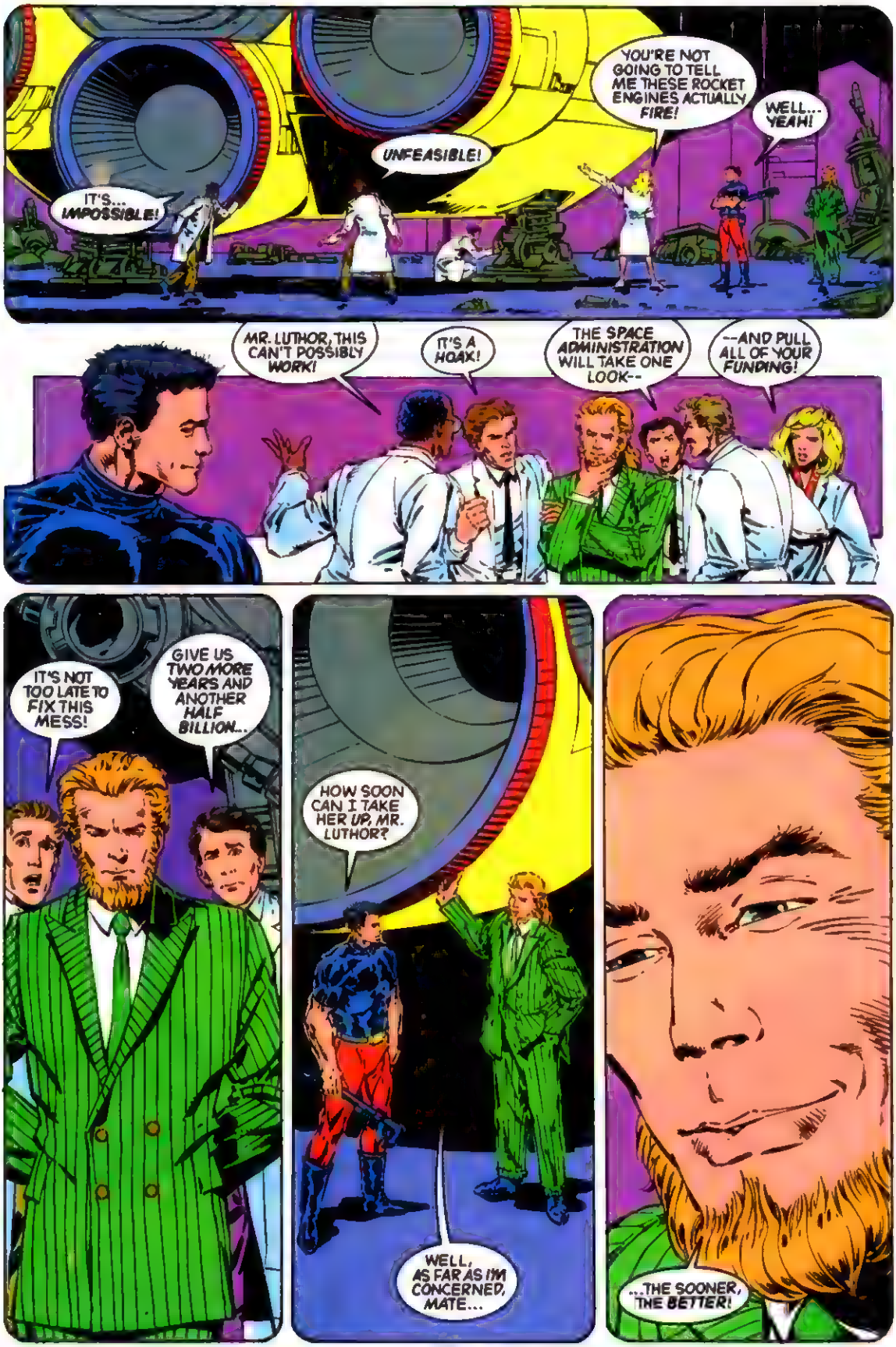
THAT'S IT!
WE'RE OUT OF HERE!
KLIK
FAR OUT OF HERE!
IF WE CAN'T FIGHT THESE GUYS, THEN WE'VE GOTTA RUN!
OBVIOUSLY, THE BETTER PART OF VALOR.
YOU'RE A RIOT, BABBAGE!
I'M GOING TO MAKE THE JUMP TO CAIRN.
THEY WON'T DARE FOLLOW US INTO L.E.G.I.O.N. SPACE!
VRIL DOX EATS GUYS LIKE THESE FOR BREAKFAST!
BUT... WE DON'T HAVE WARP DRIVE!
SURE WE DO!
WE JUST DON'T HAVE THE TELEMETRY TO PINPOINT OUR REENTRY!

HAVE YOU TAKEN LEAVE OF YOUR SENSES?!
A WILD JUMP COULD LAND US IN THE HEART OF A SUN!
THAT'S A CHANCE WE'LL HAVE TO TAKE! WE'RE OUTNUMBERED HERE--
FIVE TO ONE!
--AND EVEN THOUGH I'M INVULNERABLE, YOU AND THE SHIP ARE SEVERELY AT RISK!
AND I'M CAPTAIN OF THIS SHIP, REMEMBER?
OF COURSE I REMEMBER! I'M A COMPUTER, YOU WILD, RECKLESS, STU--
--PIIIID--!
CHECK IT OUT!
THE TARGET JUST WARPED!
NOBODY DOES THIS TO THE WHITE SPIDER!
TRACK TARGET'S SPEED AND TRAJECTORY AND EXTRAPOLATE A DESTINATION!
WE'RE GOING AFTER IT!

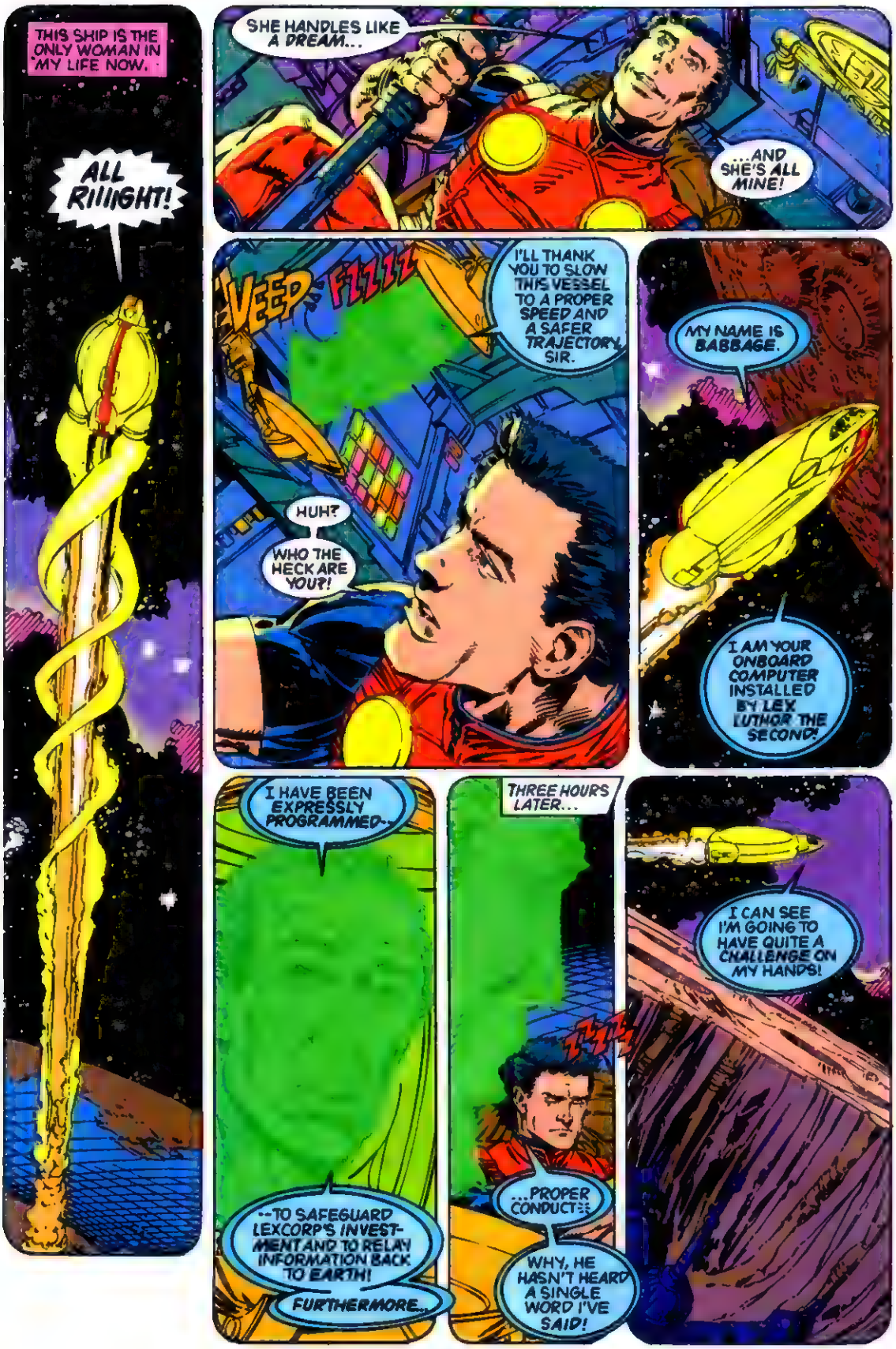

OKAY.
ACCORDING TO MY ROUGH CALCULATIONS, THIS WORM-HOLE SHOULD LAND US IN THE VICINITY OF CAIRN!
ONCE THERE, WE CAN GET THE PROGRAMMING AND TELEMETRY WE NEED FOR ACCURATE WARPING...
...AND MAYBE I CAN TALK VRIL DOX INTO COUGHING UP SOME MORE OF THE SERUM THAT PROTECTS ME FROM LEAD POISONING.
IT'S A CURSE ALL DAXAMITES FACE!
NOTHING TO DO NOW BUT WAIT!
QUEEP
WANNA HEAR THE STORY OF HOW I GOT THIS SHIP?
I WAS THERE... AND I'VE HEARD IT... EIGHT TIMES SINCE!
AND I'VE ONLY KNOWN YOU A WEEK!
IT ALL BEGAN...
...ON A PEACEFUL LITTLE BLUE AND GREEN PLANET CALLED EARTH...
:Groan!:

THE SCIENTISTS AT LEXCORP WERE PRETTY UPSET...
HOW COULD LUTHOR TURN OVER A FOUR BILLION DOLLAR PROJECT TO A CRAZY KID FROM SPACE?
LISTEN TO THAT!
HE'S DISMANTLING ALL OUR WORK!
TOP SECRET
MR. LUTHOR, PLEASE RECONSIDER!
WE HAVE SIX YEARS INVESTED IN THIS--
HKMMMM
UH...
...I'M DONE!
HMMMM
SORRY. I DIDN'T THINK IT WAS GOING TO TAKE SIX WHOLE DAYS!
C'MON IN AND CHECK IT OUT!
TOP SECRET
THIS I GOTTA SEE...

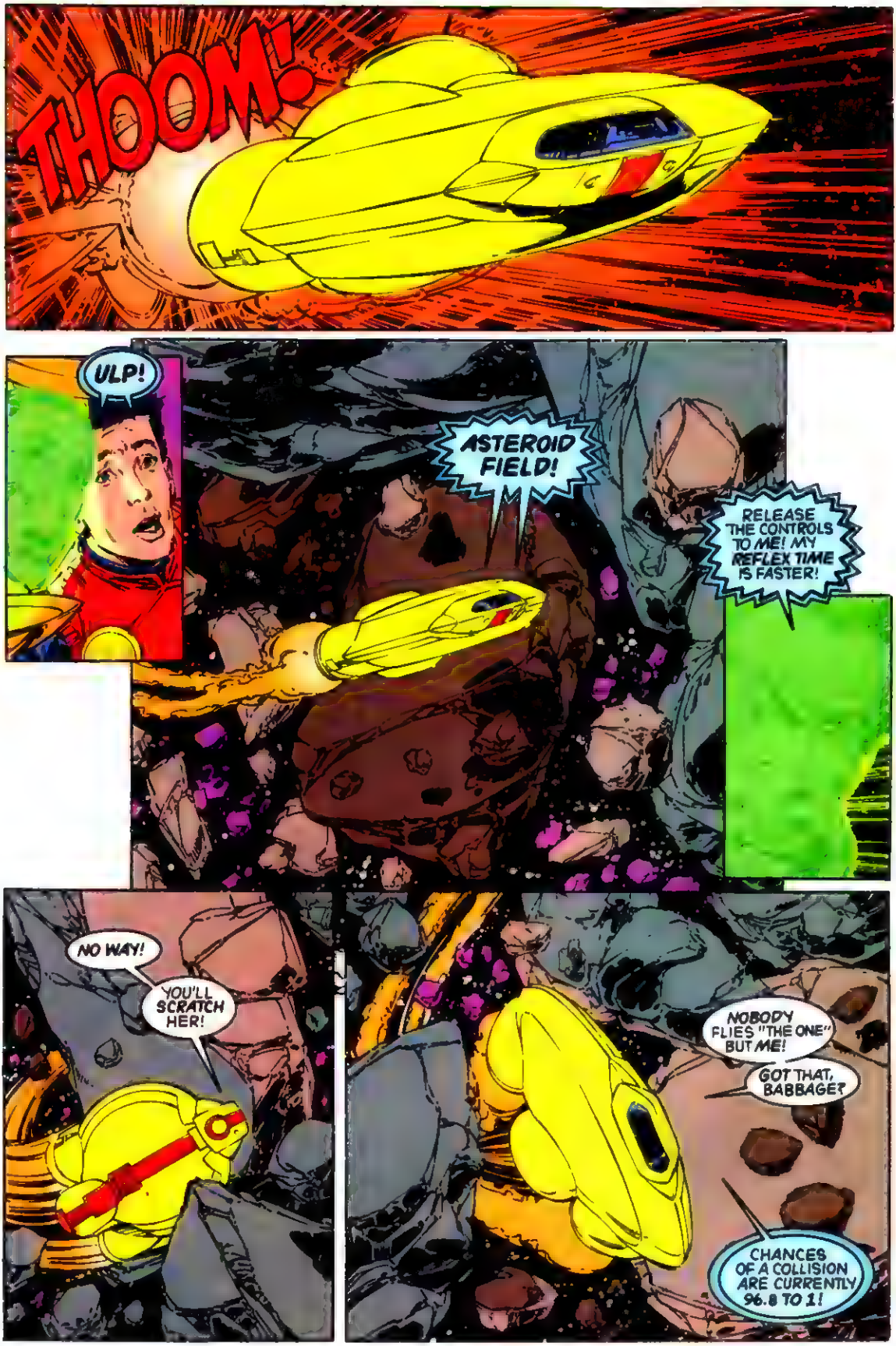

TA-DA!
I CALL HER "PILGRIM ONE"!
UMM... I HAD A FEW PARTS LEFT OVER...
...HOPE THAT ISN'T A PROBLEM.


IT'S... IMPOSSIBLE!
UNFEASIBLE!
YOU'RE NOT GOING TO TELL ME THESE ROCKET ENGINES ACTUALLY FIRE!
WELL... YEAH!
MR. LUTHOR, THIS CAN'T POSSIBLY WORK!
IT'S A HOAX!
THE SPACE ADMINISTRATION WILL TAKE ONE LOOK--
--AND PULL ALL OF YOUR FUNDING!
IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO FIX THIS MESS!
GIVE US TWO MORE YEARS AND ANOTHER HALF BILLION...
HOW SOON CAN I TAKE HER UP, MR. LUTHOR?
WELL, AS FAR AS I'M CONCERNED, MATE...
...THE SOONER, THE BETTER!

WHOOMM
WOW! IS THAT THE GUY I MET... LAR GAND?
YES! OUT OF MY HAIR, YET STILL UNDER MY THUMB!
YES, THAT WAS HE.
IT WAS NICE OF YOU TO TAKE SUCH AN INTEREST IN HIM, LEX.
HE WAS AN INTERESTING LAD!
YES, I THOUGHT SO, TOO.
HE'S A GREAT MECHANIC... AND NOT BAD LOOKING, EITHER!
HMMPH! SHOULD I TAKE THIS TO MEAN I HAVE A RIVAL FOR YOUR AFFECTIONS?
OH, DON'T BE SILLY, LEX...
...YOU KNOW YOU'RE THE ONLY MAN FOR ME!
"YOU WERE SUPER-EAVESDROPPING, LAR GAND?"
"HEY, THAT SUPERGIRL WAS CUTE... AND I HAD TO KNOW WHAT WAS UP WITH HER AND LUTHOR."

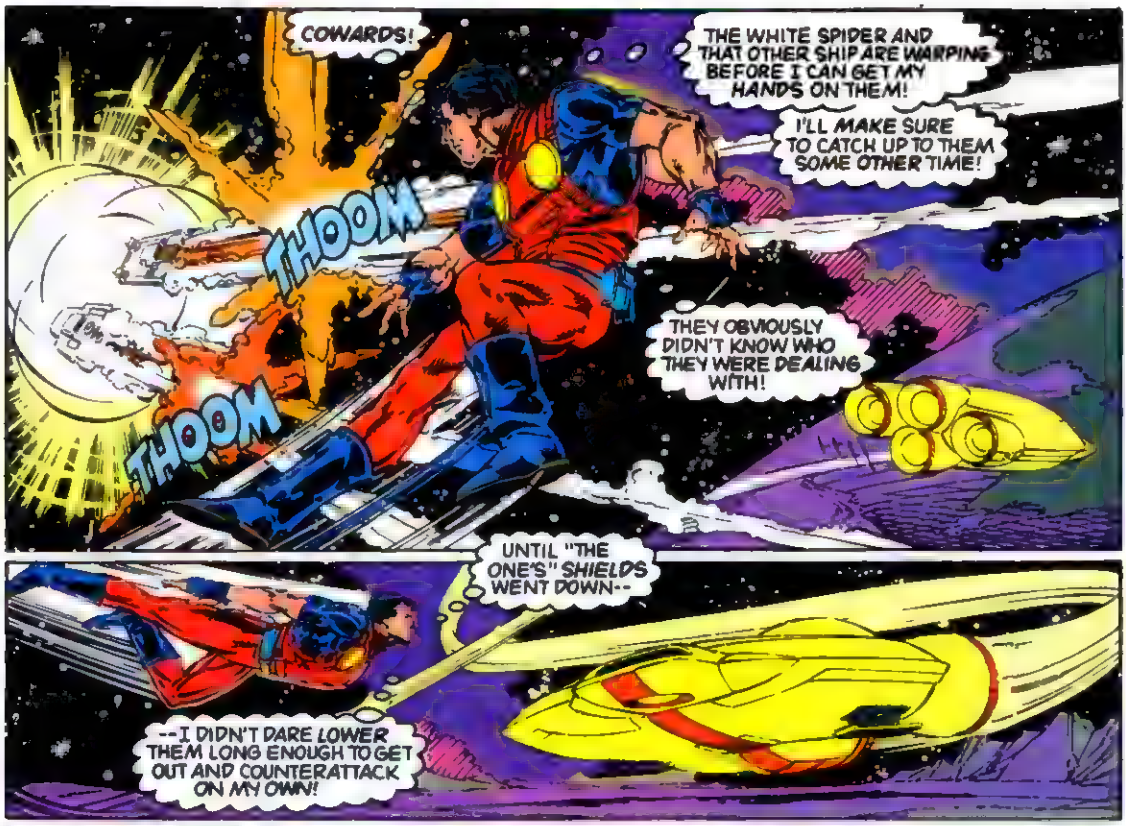

THIS SHIP IS THE ONLY WOMAN IN MY LIFE NOW.
ALL RIIIGHT!
SHE HANDLES LIKE A DREAM...
...AND SHE'S ALL MINE!
VEEP
FIZZZ
I'LL THANK YOU TO SLOW THIS VESSEL TO A PROPER SPEED AND A SAFER TRAJECTORY, SIR.
HUH?
WHO THE HECK ARE YOU?!
MY NAME IS BABBAGE.
I AM YOUR ONBOARD COMPUTER INSTALLED BY LEX LUTHOR THE SECOND!
I HAVE BEEN EXPRESSLY PROGRAMMED--
--TO SAFEGUARD LEXCORP'S INVESTMENT AND TO RELAY INFORMATION BACK TO EARTH!
FURTHERMORE...
THREE HOURS LATER...
...PROPER CONDUCT!
WHY, HE HASN'T HEARD A SINGLE WORD I'VE SAID!
I CAN SEE I'M GOING TO HAVE QUITE A CHALLENGE ON MY HANDS!

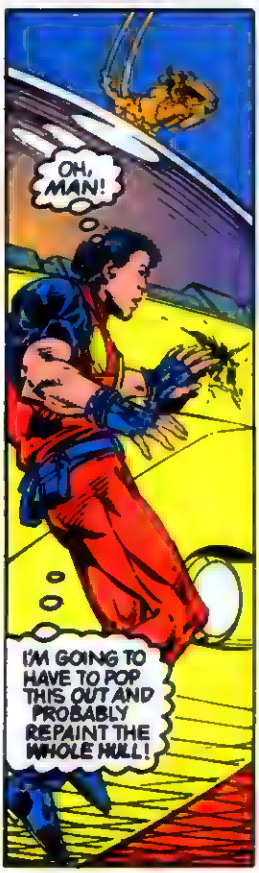
LAR GAND...?
LAR GAND...?!
OH, FOR PITY'S SAKE...
...WONDERFUL. YOUR STORY IS SO BORING YOU PUT YOURSELF TO SLEEP!
ZZZZZZ
WAKE UP, BOY--
REENTRY?!
TIME TO BE ATOMIZED, MORE LIKELY THAN NOT!
I KNEW YOU WOULDN'T WANT TO MISS IT!
--IT'S TIME FOR REENTRY!


THOOM!
ULP!
ASTEROID FIELD!
RELEASE THE CONTROLS TO ME! MY REFLEX TIME IS FASTER!
NO WAY!
YOU'LL SCRATCH HER!
NOBODY FLIES "THE ONE" BUT ME!
GOT THAT, BABBAGE?
CHANCES OF A COLLISION ARE CURRENTLY 96.8 TO 1!

THERE!
WE MADE IT OUT COMPLETELY UNSCATHED--
--AND THAT'S CAIRN IN THE DISTANCE!
NOW ALL WE HAVE TO DO IS--
THOOM
THOOM
THOOM
THOOM
--I CAN'T BELIEVE IT! THOSE GUYS FOLLOWED US!
AND THE FEEDBACK FROM THEIR WARP DRIVES IS SHORTING OUT MY WHOLE SYSTEM!
ZZZ
ZZZ
ZZZ
ZAK
ZAK

AHOY AGAIN!
YOUR CRAFT IS COMPLETELY DISABLED! WILL YOU SURRENDER?
ON ONE CONDITION...
...YOU HAVE TO PROMISE NOT TO DAMAGE HER IN ANY WAY!
AGREED!
OKAY.
YOU WIN.
EXCELLENT!
WAIT!-WHO FIRED?
YOU IDIOTS!
SKAKOOK
I'LL TEACH THOSE STINKING LOWLIFES NOT TO DENT MY SPACESHIP!
I'LL GIVE THEM A TASTE OF THEIR OWN MEDICINE!
THEY'RE LUCKY I'M BEING CAREFUL NOT TO DAMAGE THEIR LIFE-SUPPORT SYSTEMS!


COWARDS!
THOOM
THOOM
THE WHITE SPIDER AND THAT OTHER SHIP ARE WARPING BEFORE I CAN GET MY HANDS ON THEM!
I'LL MAKE SURE TO CATCH UP TO THEM SOME OTHER TIME!
THEY OBVIOUSLY DIDN'T KNOW WHO THEY WERE DEALING WITH!
UNTIL "THE ONE'S" SHIELDS WENT DOWN--
--I DIDN'T DARE LOWER THEM LONG ENOUGH TO GET OUT AND COUNTERATTACK ON MY OWN!


OH, MAN!
I'M GOING TO HAVE TO POP THIS OUT AND PROBABLY REPAINT THE WHOLE HULL!

YO, LARGE GLAND!
'S ME-- LOBO!
I JUST SAW THE DEVASTATION YOU WREAKED BACK THERE!
I DIDN'T THINK YA HAD IT IN YA!

I'M IMPRESSED!
UNLESS--I CAN MATCH THE PAINT SOMEHOW--
BUT TELL ME, KID..

...WHICH USED SAUCER SALESMAN STUCK YA WITH THIS SISSY CRUISER?
SISSY--?

I'LL SHOW YOU WHO'S A SISSY!
NOBODY INSULTS "THE ONE"!
EESH!
NEXT: A SLUGFEST SO MINDLESS WE JUST HAD TO CALL IT... "LOWBLOW!"

GUY GARDNER 1 October, 1992 Published monthly by DC Comics Inc , 1325 Avenue of the Americas, New York, NY 10019 POSTMASTER. Send address changes to GUY GARDNER, DC Comics Subscriptions, P.O. Box 0528, Baldwin NY 11510. Annual subscription rate $15.00 Canadian subscribers must add $6 00 for postage and GST. GST # is R125921072. All other foreign countries must add $12.00 for postage U S funds only Copyright © 1992 DC Comics Inc. All Rights Reserved All characters featured in this issue the distinctive likenesses thereof and all related indicia are trademarks of DC Comics Inc. The stories, characters and incidents mentioned in this magazine are entirely fictional. Advertising Representative: Print Advertising Representatives, 355 Lexington Avenue, New York NY 10017 (212) 949-6850 Printed in Canada.
DC Comics Inc. A Warner Bros. Inc. Company

— HaCsA — воин вернулся —

PORN

WHAM

BAM

gent e massage

THANK YOU, MA'AM!

COULDN'T SMASH THIS WALL WITH YOU STANDIN' UNDER IT, COULD I?

LAST TIME I HIT THIS BUILDING I DIDN'T HAVE NOTHIN' BUT AUTOMATIC WEAPONS

HADDA BE CONTENT WITH JUST CHASIN' OUT BLACK HAND'S GANG.

NOW I GOT A RING AS POWERFUL AS A GREEN LANTERN'S-- 'CEPT WITHOUT NO STUPID WEAKNESS TO YELLOW. 'AN' I'M--

*GUY GARDNER REBORN #1 - KD

KLONG

AN' I'M GONNA CLEAN UP NEW YORK-- MY WAY.

CHNG CHNNG CHNNG

NO MORE GIANT BULLDOZERS AN' ICE TONGS AN' FEATHER DUSTERS FOR ME.

THE NEW GUY GARDNER DOES HIS CLEANIN' THE MANLY WAY!

BLOOOM

WITH HIS FISTS!!

'COURSE IT NEVER HURTS TO ENHANCE A FIST...

SHXSHTT

...WITH A NICE, STEADY THROB OF RING-POWER!

EVERYBODY THINKS THAT BIG BLUE BORE SUPERMAN IS THE HEAVIEST TOE-TO-TOE SLUGGER IN THE WORLD.

WELL, IT'S TIME FOR PROFESSOR GARDNER'S CRASH COURSE IN SUPERHEROICAL REALITIES!

PAY ATTENTION, CLASS -- WHILE I SHOW YOU HOW A MAN USES HIS POWERS!

WOMP

XXX

A MAN WHO DOESN'T HIDE BEHIND SOME "SECRET IDENTITY"!

A MAN WHO DOESN'T GIVE HIMSELF A NAME THAT SOUNDS LIKE SOMETHIN' OUT OF A FUNNY-BOOK!

A MAN WHO CALLS HIMSELF WHAT HE IS --

--A MAN NAMED GUY!!!

DECLARING A "WAR ON SCUM," FORMER GREEN LANTERN GUY GARDNER TODAY SWEPT INTO A NOTORIOUS "VICE-HOUSE" NEAR TIMES SQUARE...

...AND BEFORE HE WAS DONE HAD LEVELLED AN ENTIRE CITY BLOCK.

SUPERHEROES. NO PERMIT. NO EVICTION ORDER. JUST BOOM. AND YOU WONDER WHY WE WANT 'EM OUTTA TOWN!

THE JUSTICE LEAGUE'LL ANSWER FOR THIS!

GARDNER ACTED WITH NO JUSTICE LEAGUE SANCTION. NONE. BELIEVE ME, THERE'LL BE AN INTERNAL REVIEW.

WHAT KIND OF CITY IS THIS TO LIVE IN?! WHAT KIND OF LIFE IS THIS?! HOW CAN CIVILIZED PEOPLE LIVE IN SUCH VIOLENCE?!

I'M MOVING TO NEW JERSEY!

OH, BUT GOD, YOU KNOW, THAT GUY, HE WAS SO MACHO. HE WAS LIKE ALL SUPERHEROES SHOULD BE. YOU KNOW?

HE WAS A MAN!

INTERESTING. YES, YES, I DARE SAY.

MOST INTERESTING!

WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING?!

DROP IT, SUPES. YOU'RE JUST JEALOUS--'CAUSE YOU KNOW I'M WHAT THIS BIG, BRUISED APPLE'S BEEN NEEDIN' FOR YEARS.!

WHAT?!

DO YOU UNDERSTAND WHAT A POSITION YOU'VE PUT THE LEAGUE IN? DO YOU KNOW WHAT WE HAVE TO GO THROUGH WITH THE LEGAL AUTHORITIES NOW?

HA! "HEROES"! I NEVER SEEN NOBODY SO SCARED OF A BUNCH O' DOUGH-BUTT LITTLE BUREAUCRATS!

MAYBE ONCE I'VE CLEANED THE SLEAZE OUTTA TIMES SQUARE I OUGHTTA ZIP DOWN TO CITY HALL AND CLEAN OUT THE CRIMINAL-CODDLING LIBERALS, HUH?

IF YOU EVEN THINK ABOUT THAT, GARDNER ...KNOW THAT THIS LEAGUE WILL TAKE SWIFT ACTION.

LISTEN, BLUE CHEESE. LAST TIME WE FOUGHT I GOT CUTE, WITH THOSE PINCERS AND ALL...*

...SO I DIDN'T GET A CHANCE TO DO YOU ANY DAMAGE. BUT NEXT TIME...

*JLA 66.

STOP THIS, PLEASE!

SUPERMAN IS RIGHT, GUY! YOU HAVE NO RIGHT TO ARGUE WITH HIM!

SO.

YOU MADE YOUR CHOICE, BABY.

YOU PICKED YOUR SIDE.

THANKS FOR SAVIN' ME A LOTTA WONDERIN'.

GUY...?

LET HIM GO, ICE. MAYBE HE'LL THINK ABOUT WHAT WAS SAID HERE TODAY.

OH, I'M THINKIN' ABOUT IT ALREADY, SUPEY. I'M THINKIN' THAT I DON'T CARE.

YOU KNOW THE JLA NEEDS ME A TON MORE THAN I NEED IT. AN' AS FOR YOU, MY LITTLE FRIGIDAIRE...

I GOT PLENTY OPTIONS JUST WAITIN' FOR ME.

TAKE A LOOK...

WHATTA GUY!

...AN' GET A LOAD O' MY PUBLIC!

GIVE 'EM HELL, GUY!

Mucho Guy!

HE'S OUR GUY!

GUY MAN!

GET OUTTA TOWN, GARDNER!

FASCIST INSECT!

GUY, I WANNA HAVE YER BAAAA-BY!!

SEE WHAT I MEAN, FROSTY?

NOW, WHY DONCHA MAKE A FEW ICE CUBES ...AN' POUR YOURSELF A DRINK?

8

WELL! IF THAT'S ALL LOVE MEANS TO YOU, THEN... THEN... THEN...

...THEN I'M GLAD TO BE RID OF YOU!

WELL SAID, ICE!

"WELL...

"...SAID"!

OH, GOD. WHAT HAVE I DONE?

ALL RIGHT, EVERYONE! LET'S GET BACK TO WORK!

AND GET ME JUSTICE LEAGUE EUROPE ON THE MONITOR!

SO WHAT'S NEX', GUY? YOU GONNA SMASH SOMETHIN' ELSE? YOU GONNA GET IN ANUDDA FIGHT?

YOU LISTENIN', GUY-BABY?

GUY?

HUH?

OH, SURE.

WHY SHOULDN'T I BE LISTENING?

WHY GUY

THE MOST RESPECTED HERO IN THE WORLD!

WHA--?

THAT'S WHAT YOU WANT TO BE-- AM I RIGHT, GUY GARDNER?

WELL, THAT'S WHAT I'M GOING TO MAKE YOU!

BUSTER COSTELLO

AN' WHO THE BUG ARE YOU?!

BUCKY SHARP, MR. GARDNER!

AND, I DARE SAY, NO BETTER PRESS AGENT EVER WASHED ONTO THIS BENIGHTED SHORE OF THE ATLANTIC!

WHO NEEDS A PRESS AGENT?

YOU, MR. GARDNER! WHY WASTE YOUR TIME WITH THESE SPANDEX CHIPPIES?

HEY!!

FROM NOW ON, YOU'LL BE ASSOCIATED WITH ONLY THE FINEST! CARE TO BE LINKED WITH MADONNA? WITH JULIA ROBERTS? WITH HILLARY CLINTON?

THE WORLD IS YOUR OYSTER, MR. GARDNER-- AND I'M THE CHAP TO HELP YOU SHUCK IT!

BUCKY SHARP PUBLIC RELATIONS LONDON NEW YORK

FOR JUST--

SHPLAPP

GESTAPO HOG 'GIVE YOUR POWER TO THE MASSES!

OH, SO YOU WANT SOME O' MY POWER, HUH?

THEN I'LL GIVE YA SOME!

MAYBE EVEN MORE THAN YER SHARE!

TUT-TUT!

YOU NEED ME MORE THAN I DREAMED!

WHAT'S THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN?!

DO YOU WANT THE REPUTATION OF A GREAT BIG BULLY WHO TURNS THIS VAST POWER ON PESKY LITTLE BLIGHTERS LIKE THIS?

NO. YOU WANT VIOLENCE TO ENHANCE YOUR PUBLIC PERSONA! YOU WANT TO TAKE ON BIG BLIGHTERS!

YEAH. LIKE SUPERMAN. LIKE GREEN LANTERN. THE ONES WHO THINK THEY'RE BETTER'N ME!

BIG VIOLENCE-- AGAINST BIG JERKS!

GARDNER VS. LANTERN-- THE GRUDGE MATCH! NOW, THAT'S A POST HEADLINE!

AND THEN SUPERMAN! THE WORLD'S GREATEST BOOR AGAINST THE WORLD'S GREATEST BORE!

OH, THE LITTLE KIDDIES WILL SIMPLY EAT THAT UP!

I'LL MAKE YOU INTO EVERYTHING YOU WANT TO BE, MR. GARDNER!

AND FOR ONLY TEN PERCENT OF YOUR INCOME-- WITH A GUARANTEED TEN THOUSAND ANNUALLY!

FOR ONLY--!

HA. HA-HA-HAW HAW HAW!!

TEN PERCENT! TEN THOUSAND!

THIS CLOWN THINKS I GOT MONEY!

I'M A SUPERHERO, "SHARP."

SUPERHEROES AIN'T GOT NO MONEY!

YOU KNOW WHERE I LIVE? DOWN IN ALPHABET CITY. THAT'S WHERE -- IN A WALK-UP DUMP WITH A RETIRED COMIC BOOK HERO AN' A DOG!

BUT YOUR AMERICAN BASEBALL BATSMEN MAKE MILLIONS JUST BY SWINGING A STICK!

WHY DON'T YOU MAKE AT LEAST THAT FOR WIELDING THE WORLD'S MOST POWERFUL WEAPON ON YOUR FINGER?

'CAUSE THAT AIN'T THE WAY IT'S DONE!

LEASTWAYS...

...NOT TILL NOW!

TRUST ME, MR. GARDNER, WITH PROFESSIONAL PLANNING, THAT RING CAN MAKE YOU THE RICHEST MAN IN THE WORLD!

THE RICHEST MAN...

...IN THE WHOLE...

...DAMN...

...WORLD?!

YOU'VE GOT IT, MR. GARDNER, OR, RATHER... YOU WILL GET IT. AND GOOD PUBLICITY IS YOUR FIRST STEP!

'ZAT HIM?

YEAH. THAT'S THE CRUD.

TIME TO DO WHAT WE GOTTA DO.

MEANWHILE, IN LONDON...

HIYA, SUPES!

HELLO, FLASH. IS GREEN LANTERN THERE?

YOU'RE IN LUCK. HAL AND I WERE JUST COMING FROM AFRICA AND DECIDED TO POP IN HERE AT JLE HQ ON OUR WAY STATESIDE.

WHAT WAS HAPPENING IN AFRICA?

WELL...

...WOULD YOU BELIEVE I WAS TURNED INTO A SUPER-GENIUS, HAL WAS TURNED INTO A NEANDERTHAL, AND WE BEAT AN ARMY OF APES WITH THE AID OF A TALKING DOG?

NO, I WOULDN'T.

SO DON'T ASK.*

*YOU DON'T HAVE TO ASK EITHER. JUST CHECK OUT GREEN LANTERN #S 30 & 31, AND FLASH #S 69 & 70-KD

HEY, HAL! GOT A CALL FOR YOU! AND SHE'S CUTE!

WHAT?! FLASH, WHAT ARE YOU--

QUICKEST WAY TO GET A GUY INTO A ROOM.

WHO IS IT?

SEE?

HUH?!

SUPERMAN?!

SORRY TO DISAPPOINT YOU, HAL. BUT WE HAVE A PROBLEM.

GUY GARDNER.

I WISH I'D BEEN ON OA TO STOP HIM FROM GETTING THAT RING. IT'LL BE A LOT TOUGHER...

...TAKING IT AWAY FROM HIM NOW.

HE'S BEEN LEVELLING CITY BLOCKS IN A ONE-MAN CAMPAIGN AGAINST "SCUM."

HE ACTS AS THOUGH THE POWER OF HIS RING GIVES HIM *LICENSE* INSTEAD OF *RESPONSIBILITY.*

LICENSE TO RESHAPE THE WORLD AS *HE* SEES FIT. THIS COULD BECOME A *NIGHTMARE* FOR US ALL...

BUT WAIT A MINUTE

MAYBE I WON'T HAVE TO.

...UNLESS HE'S *STOPPED.*

THERE'S SOMEONE OUT THERE WHO MAY ACTUALLY BE ABLE TO COMMUNICATE WITH HIM--AND GET HIM *TO GIVE UP* THAT RING!

WE'LL TRUST YOUR JUDGMENT, HAL.

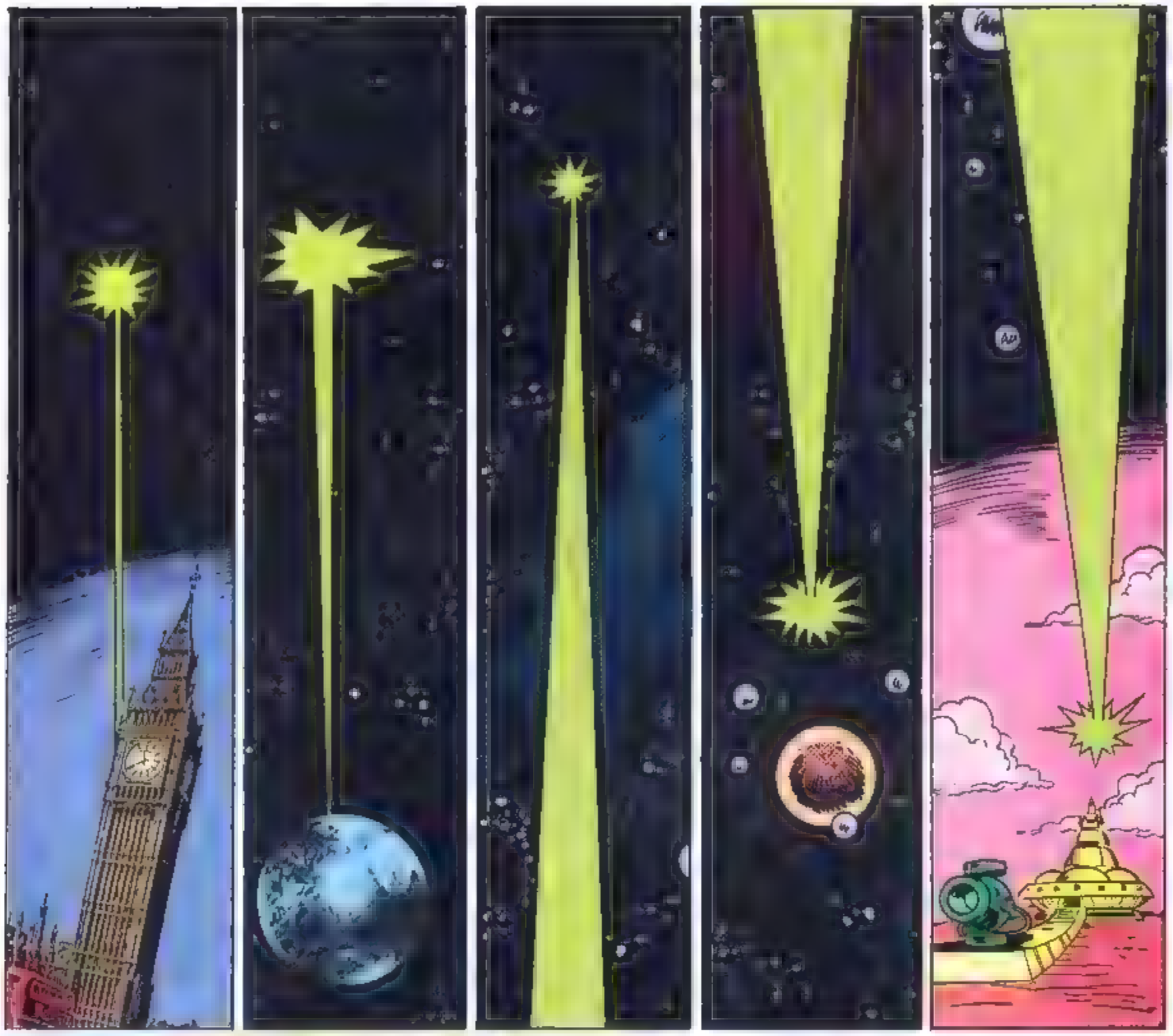
DAMN. I *KNEW* IT WAS TROUBLE WHEN HE FOUND *SINESTRO'S RING.* I WAS HOPING HIS *RESCUE* OF YOU IN THAT *ECLIPSO* MESS MEANT HE'D *CHANGED.*

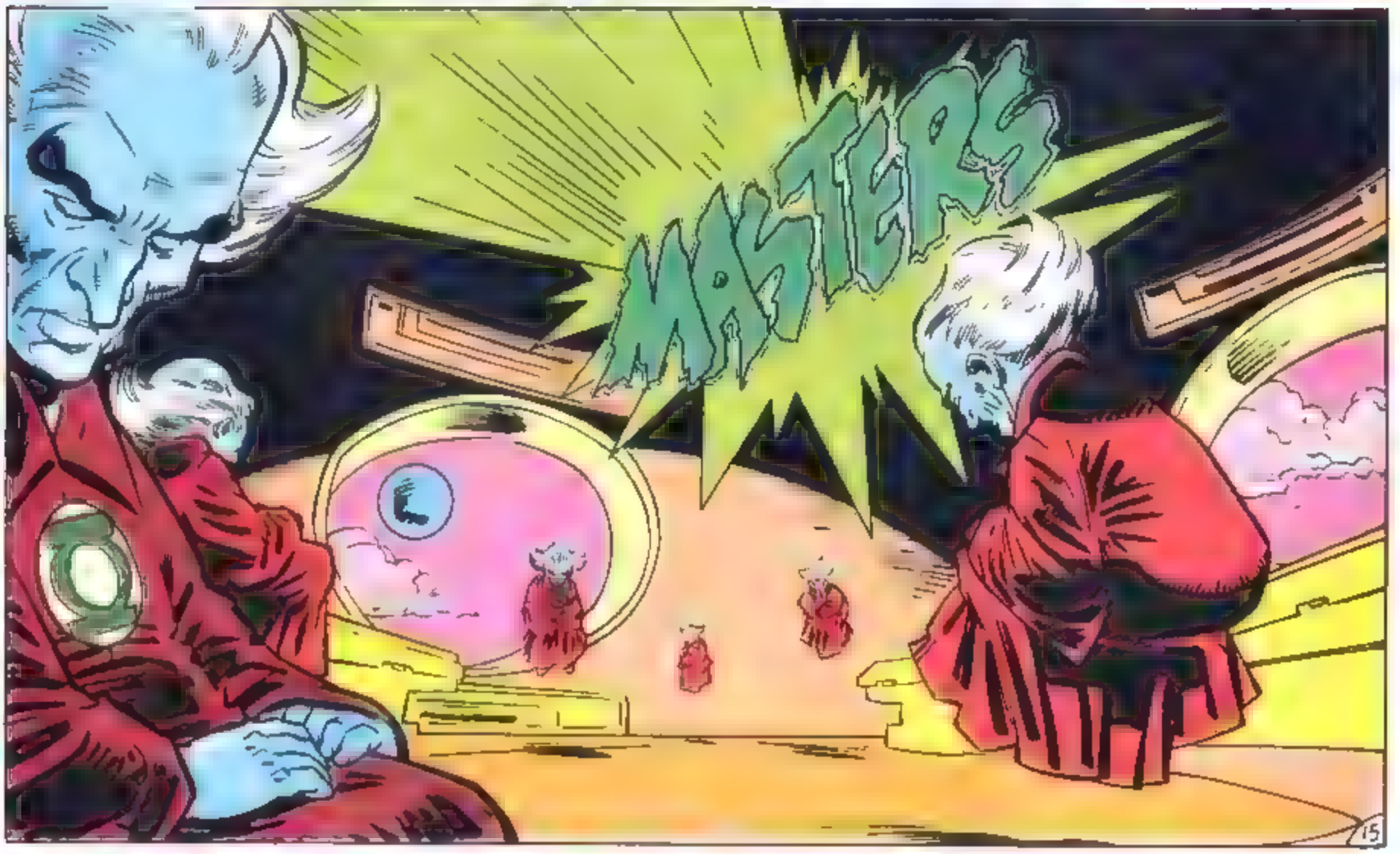
BUT...

YEAH, I KNOW. "DREAM ON."

*ADVENTURES OF SUPERMAN ANNUAL #4 KD

GOOD LET'S HOPE MY *BOSSES* DO, TOO.




MASTERS

HAL JORDAN?

MY FORMER COMRADE GUY GARDNER POSES A THREAT TO THE ORDER OF SECTOR 2814

DO YOU REQUIRE THE AID OF OTHER GREEN LANTERNS TO COMBAT HIM?

NOT YET, MASTERS. I FEEL THIS REQUIRES COMMUNICATION BEFORE COMBAT...

...AND THERE IS ONE GREEN LANTERN WHO MAY BE UP TO THE TASK.

AH.

YES.

MASTERS? I WAS JUST TRAININ' THOSE--

TRAINING MUST WAIT, KILOWOG.

YOU HAVE A MISSION.

AND BACK IN NUEVE YORK...

YOU CAN'T MEAN IT!

HEROES JUST DON'T DO THAT, GUY! THEY DON'T EVEN THINK ABOUT MONEY!

AT LEAST, NOT IN THESE HIGH-MINDED U-NITED STATES OF AMERICA!

PIZZA!

OH, YEAH. OUR MINDS ARE HIGH, ALL RIGHT... 'SPECIALLY COMPARED TO OUR INCOMES.

YARF!

YARF!

CHIPS

WELL, WHAT ABOUT ME?!

AM I CROOKED? AM I GREEDY? JUST BECAUSE I WANT WHAT I DESERVE?!

PLOOSH

I--

KAPOW

WHAT--

--THE HELL?!

BOOM

WHO WOULD--?

OH, NO!!

KROOM KROOM

NOT THOSE JOKERS!

NOT THOOM AN' BOOM!

THOOM

KROOM

IT WORKED! HE'S COMING!

HEY!

THONG

WHERE'D THIS YELLOW WALL COME FROM?

BLONG

WHAT MAROONS!

THEY GOT POWER RINGS FROM THE GUARDIANS SO THEY AND A BUNCH OF OTHER WEIRDOS COULD DISGRACE THE GREEN LANTERN CORPS.

"I THOUGHT THEY WAS FINISHED WHEN I DESTROYED THEIR POWER-SOURCE! LOOKS LIKE I GOT ME A LITTLE MORE DESTROYIN' TO--"

*GREEN LANTERN #S 11 & 12.

THEY USED THE RINGS TO GET STRONG JUST SO THEY COULD FIGHT EACH OTHER-- FOREVER!

AN' THEIR PAL BUK-60! USIN' HIS RING TO MAKE HIMSELF A SUPER-POWERED FURNITURE MOVER!"

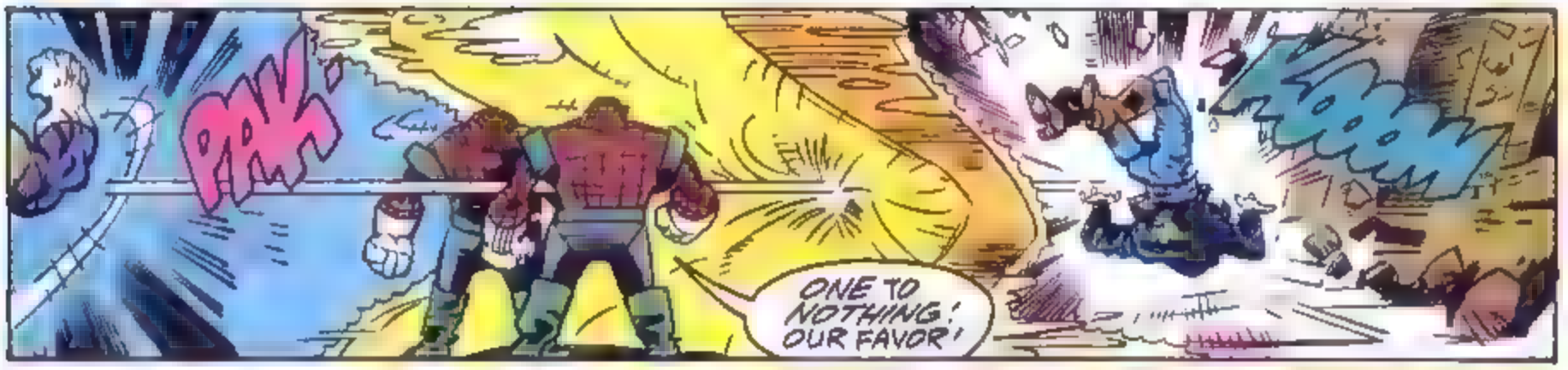
DESTROY THIS CHUMP!

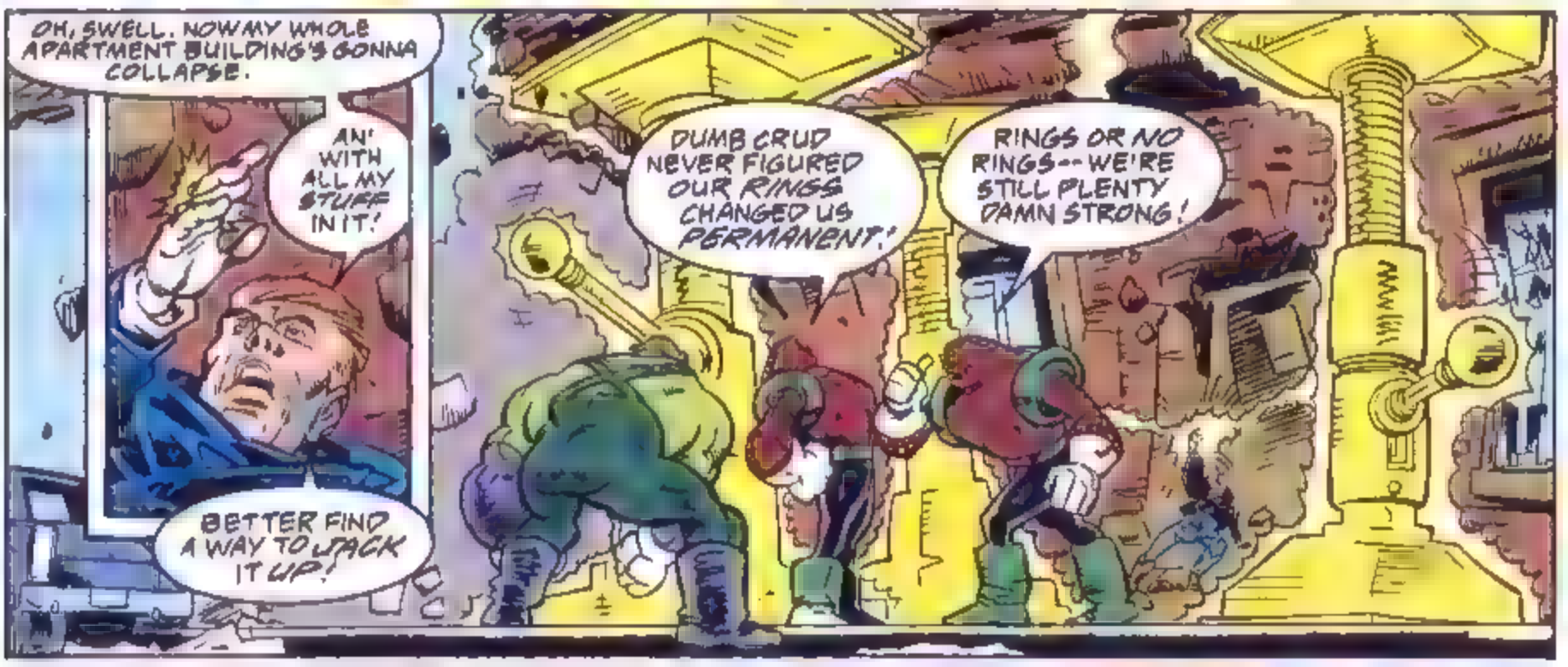
BLAM

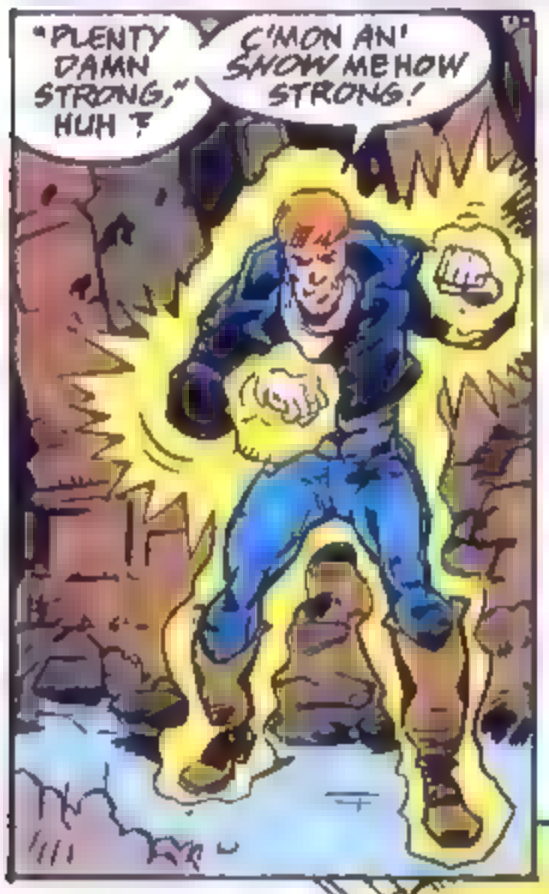
PONG

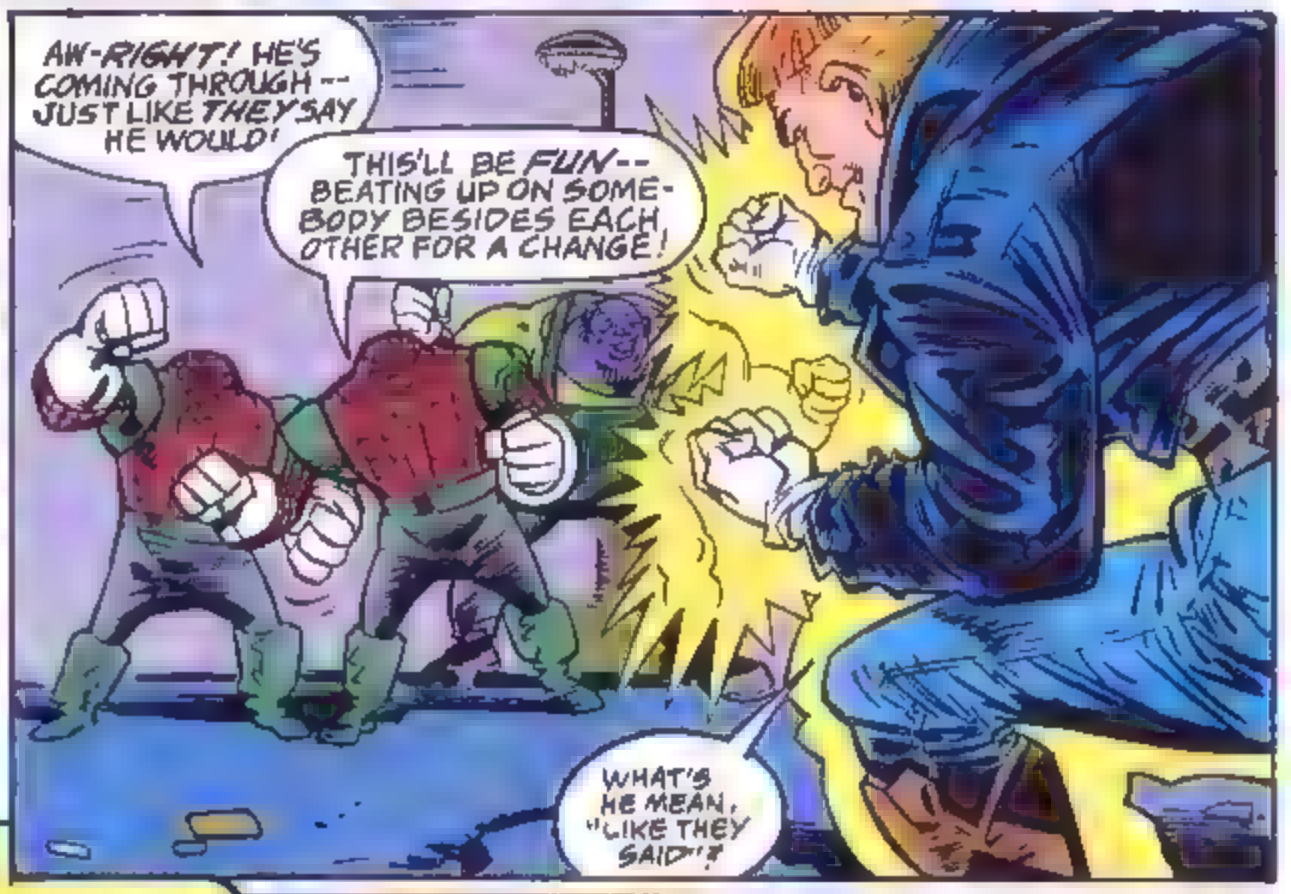
KLONG

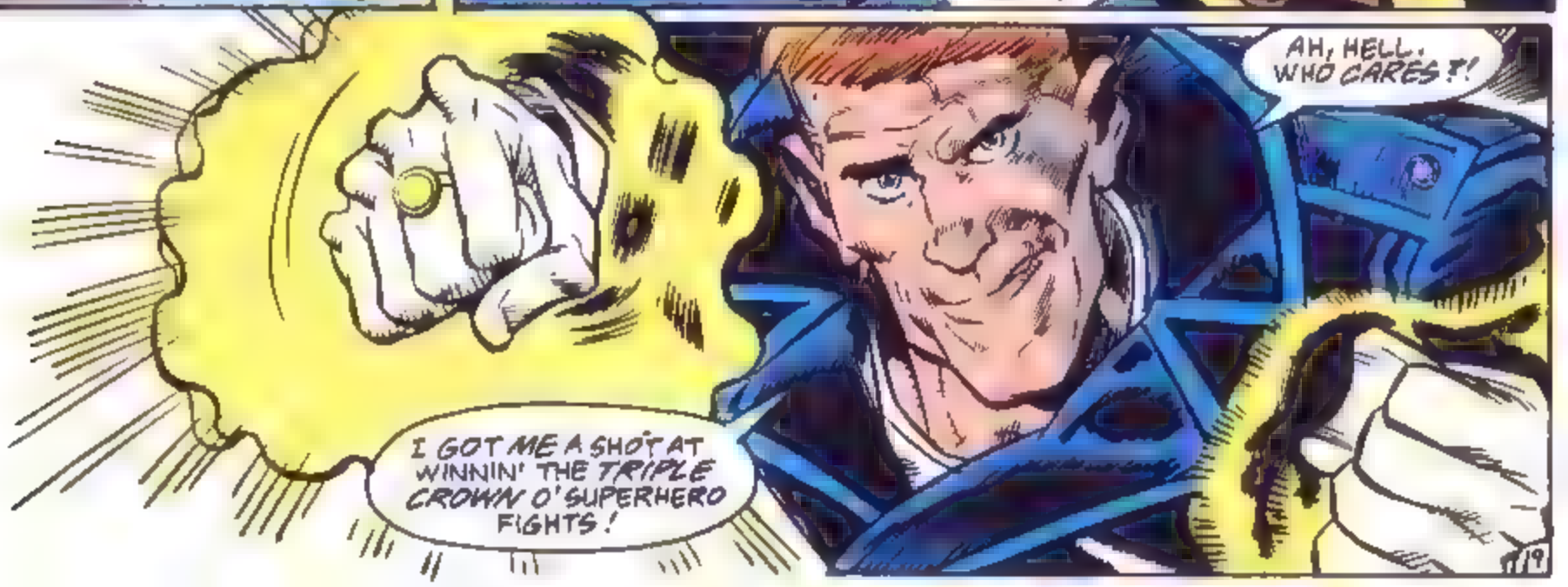
LOOK! FIGHT!


PAK!
ONE TO NOTHING! OUR FAVOR!


OH, SWELL. NOW MY WHOLE APARTMENT BUILDING'S GONNA COLLAPSE.
AN' WITH ALL MY STUFF IN IT!
BETTER FIND A WAY TO JACK IT UP!
DUMB CRUD NEVER FIGURED OUR RINGS CHANGED US PERMANENT!
RINGS OR NO RINGS--WE'RE STILL PLENTY DAMN STRONG!


"PLENTY DAMN STRONG," HUH?
C'MON AN' SHOW ME HOW STRONG!


AW-RIGHT! HE'S COMING THROUGH -- JUST LIKE THEY SAY HE WOULD!
THIS'LL BE FUN-- BEATING UP ON SOMEBODY BESIDES EACH OTHER FOR A CHANGE!
WHAT'S HE MEAN, "LIKE THEY SAID"?


I GOT ME A SHOT AT WINNIN' THE TRIPLE CROWN O' SUPERHERO FIGHTS!
AH, HELL, WHO CARES?!

BOOM

THAT'S THE PREAKNESS...

...THAT'S THE BELMONT...

AN' THIS--

HOO!

--IS THE KENTUCKY--

--FRIGGIN'--

--DERBY?

SNAP

EEEEYAAA!

WHADDYA DOIN' TO ME, RING?! MAKE ME POWERFUL!

MAKE ME FRIGGIN' POWERFUL!

HEH HEH SOMETHING WRONG... BUDDY?

GET UP, BOYS! WE GOT US A BRAND-NEW KREL-GAME!

OH, CRIPES! THE RING... THE CHARGE!

MY OL' GL RING ALWAYS HADDA BE RECHARGED AFTER 24 HOURS! I DIDN'T THINK THIS RING COULD EVER RUN OUTTA POWER!

BUT... BUT OUTTA POWER IS JUST WHAT IT IS...

NEXT: PULVERIZED!

DAN JURGENS story and layouts | RICK BURCHETT finishes | WILLIE SCHUBERT letters | GENE D'ANGELO colors | BRIAN AUGUSTYN editor

JUSTICE LEAGUE AMERICA 66 September 1992 Published monthly by DC Comics Inc 1325 Avenue of the Americas New York NY 10019 POSTMASTER. Send address changes to JUSTICE LEAGUE AMERICA, DC Comics Subscriptions, PO Box 0528, Baldwin, NY 11510 Annual subscription rate $15 00 Canadian subscribers must add $8 00 for postage and GST GST # is R125921072 All other foreign countries must add $12 00 for postage U S funds only Copyright © 1992 DC Comics Inc. All Rights Reserved All characters featured in this issue the distinctive likenesses thereof and all related indicia are trademarks of DC Comics Inc The stories, characters and incidents mentioned in this magazine are entirely fictional. Advertising Representative Print Advertising Representatives, 355 Lexington Avenue, New York, NY 10017 (212) 949-6850 Printed in Canada
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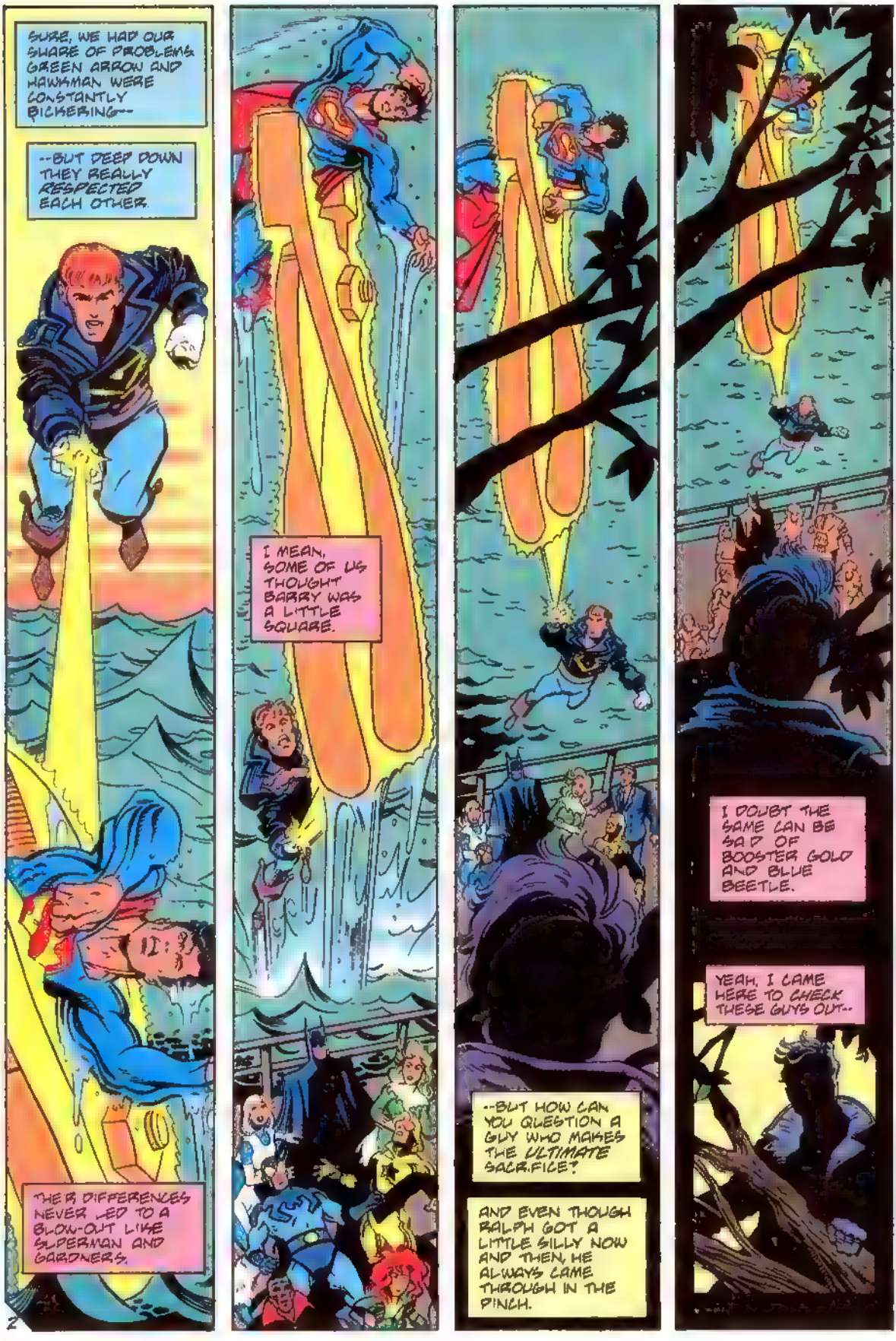

SURE, WE HAD OUR SHARE OF PROBLEMS. GREEN ARROW AND HAWKMAN WERE CONSTANTLY BICKERING--
--BUT DEEP DOWN THEY REALLY RESPECTED EACH OTHER.
THEIR DIFFERENCES NEVER LED TO A BLOW-OUT LIKE SUPERMAN AND GARDNER'S.
I MEAN, SOME OF US THOUGHT BARRY WAS A LITTLE SQUARE.
--BUT HOW CAN YOU QUESTION A GUY WHO MAKES THE ULTIMATE SACRIFICE?
AND EVEN THOUGH RALPH GOT A LITTLE SILLY NOW AND THEN, HE ALWAYS CAME THROUGH IN THE PINCH.
I DOUBT THE SAME CAN BE SAID OF BOOSTER GOLD AND BLUE BEETLE.
YEAH, I CAME HERE TO CHECK THESE GUYS OUT--

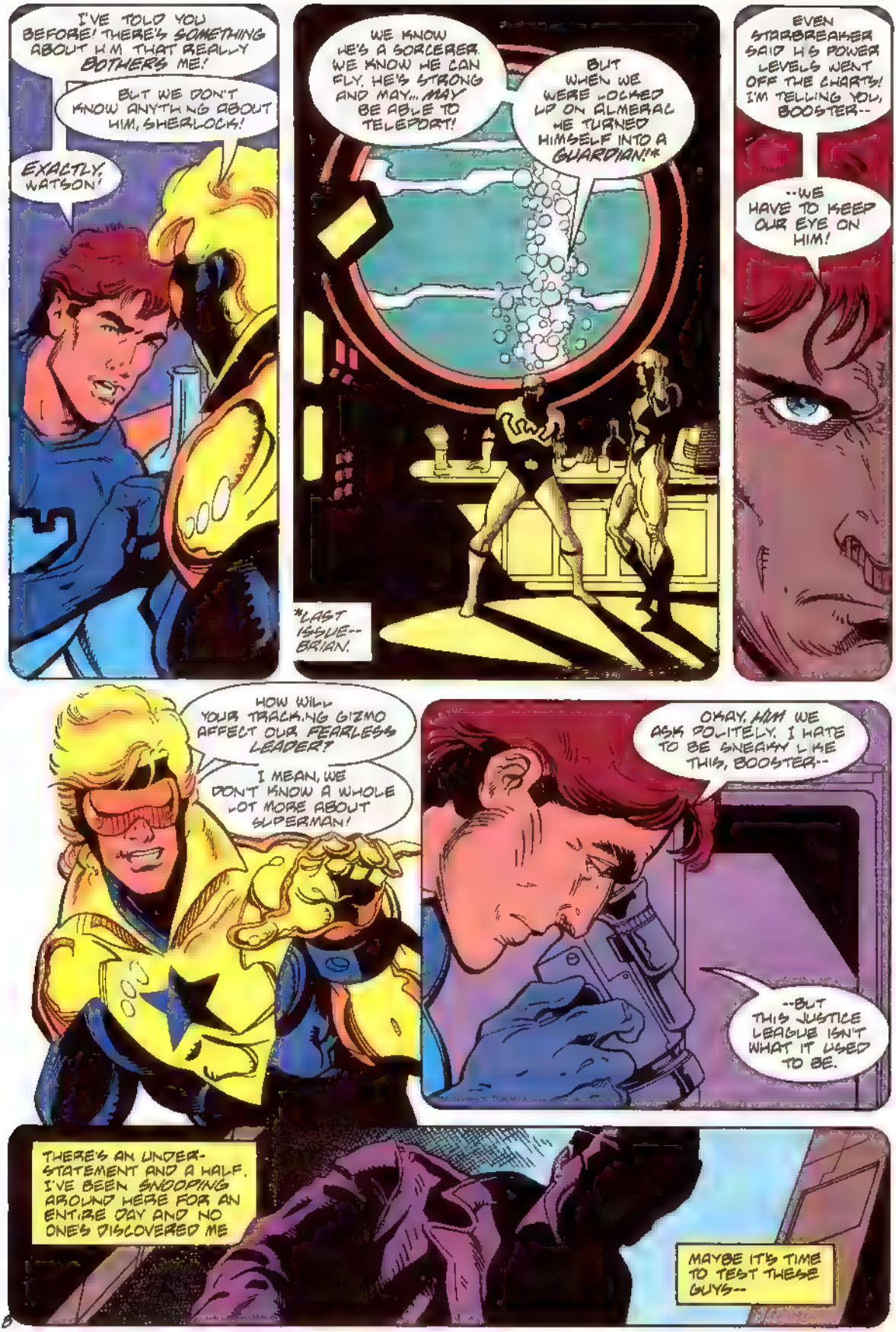
--AND I'M NOT SURE I LIKE WHAT I'VE SEEN.
SPEND A COUPLE OF DAYS SPYING ON A GROUP LIKE THIS AND YOU SHOULD END UP BEING IMPRESSED...
THINKING OVER HOW THIS DAY'S GONE MAKES MY HEAD SPIN.
IT ALL STARTED THIS MORNING...
THIS PLACE IS QUIET AS A TOMB! WHERE THE DEVIL IS EVERYBODY, OBERON?
BEETLE AND BOOSTER ARE DOWN IN THE LAB PLAYING SCIENTIST--
--FIRE AND ICE ARE UP IN FIRE'S ROOM WATCHING SOAPS--
--AND BLOODWYND'S PROBABLY IN HIS APARTMENT BROODING!
THEY CALL THIS A JUSTICE LEAGUE OF AMERICA?
WHAT ABOUT SUPERMAN AND MAX.MA?
OH, THEY'RE IN METROPOLIS VISITING THE DA'S OFFICE. MAXIMA IS FINALLY GONNA RESPOND TO THAT WARRANT FOR HER ARREST.
GREAT LIVE ON THE NETWORK NEWS, NO LESS!
THIS WILL DO WONDERS FOR OUR IMAGE!
WE NEVER WORRIED ABOUT OUR IMAGE. DIDN'T HAVE TO.
IT WAS SPOTLESS. NONE OF US--

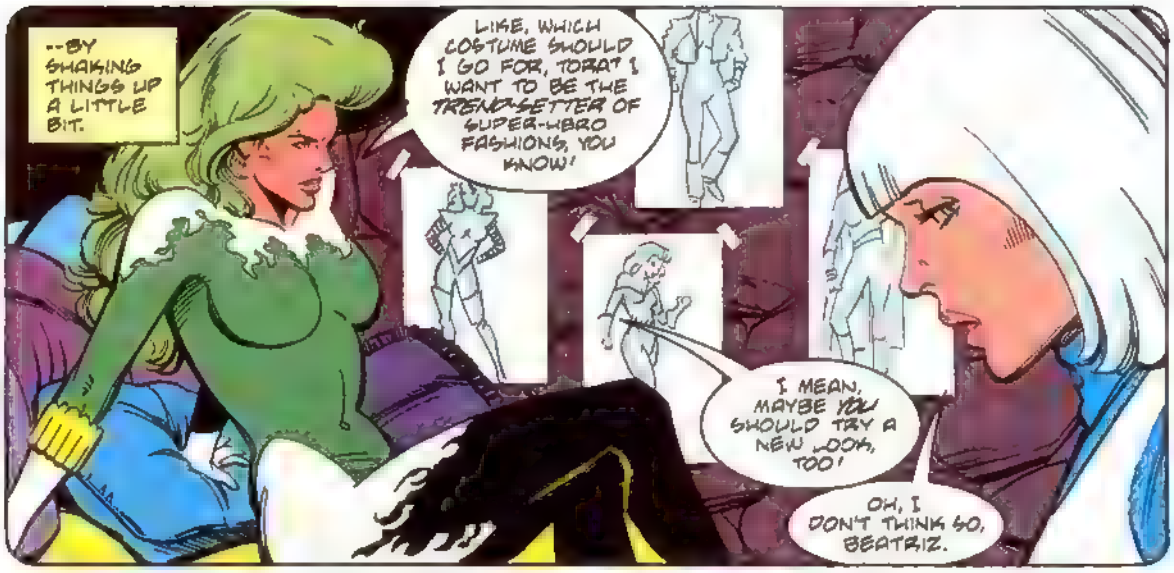
--EVER WENT PARADING INTO COURT.
I FAIL TO UNDERSTAND THE NECESSITY OF MY PRESENCE HERE. THIS MATTER WAS CLEARED UP MONTHS AGO.
LOOK, MAXIMA, YOU WERE INVOLVED IN A NUMBER OF QUESTIONABLE ACTIVITIES. IF YOU WANT TO LIVE ON EARTH YOU HAVE TO ABIDE BY EARTH'S LAWS!
AND YOU MIGHT START BY WALKING AND DRESSING MORE CONSERVATIVELY!
IF YOU INSIST.
STILL, I FAIL TO SEE WHY I SHOULD RESPOND THAT MURDER*--
--WAS ACTUALLY COMMITTED BY A DUPLICATE OF ME--A SIMULACRUM--THAT WAS BROUGHT HERE BY MY SERVANT SAZU!
A REGRETTABLE INCIDENT--
*ACTION COMICS #645--BRIAN
--BUT NOT AN INCIDENT THAT ONE OF MY STATUS SHOULD HAVE TO DESCEND TO ANSWERING.
LIGHTEN UP, MAXIMA. YOU'RE NOT QUEEN OF AN EMPIRE ANYMORE!
WE PLAY BY THE RULES. ALL OF US DO!
INDEED, SUPERMAN. NOW LET'S GET DOWN TO BUSINESS AND REVIEW THIS CASE.

OUR INFORMATION SUPPORTS YOUR EXPLANATION OF THE MURDER AND I CONCEDE THAT WE NEEDN'T PRESS CHARGES.
HOWEVER, THE MAGNITUDE OF YOUR PROBLEMS FAR EXCEEDS THAT CIRCUMSTANCE.
SUCH AS?
SUCH AS OUR BELIEF THAT YOU ASSISTED A TRUE MURDERER IN ESCAPING US.
YOUR SERVANT SAZU, WAS BROKEN OUT OF PRISON SEVERAL MONTHS AGO.
WITNESSES PLACE YOU AT THE SCENE, MAX MA'
*ACTION #651 --ME AGAIN.
OF COURSE I REMOVED HER! SHE NEEDED TO BE DISCIPLINED BY HER MASTER!
OH, BROTHER
NO! SAZU HAD TO ANSWER TO OUR JUDICIAL SYSTEM!
YOU WANT HER BACK?
BY THE REALM OF THE ELDER GODS!
HERE. I HAVE TELEPORTED HER FROM A PRISON ON A DISTANT PLANET.
DO WITH HER WHAT YOU WILL.
OH.
IT'S GOING TO BE ONE OF THOSE DAYS
THIS COULD TAKE... A WHILE, SUPERMAN. IF YOU HAVE MORE IMPORTANT THINGS TO DO.
THANKS GOOD LUCK

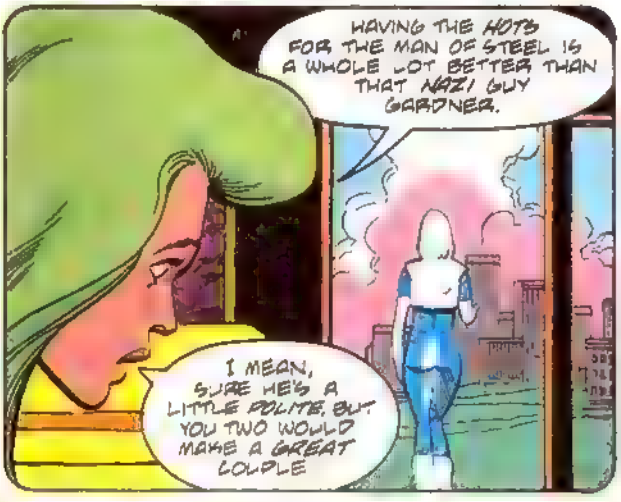
WOW! IT'S THEM! TOGETHER IN ONE ROOM!
WHAT'S HE DOING IN METROPOLIS?
GOT A MINUTE?
YOU.
BATMAN.
SURPRISED?
NOTHING YOU DO SURPRISES ME. WHAT'S UP?
I HEAR YOU'RE HAVING TROUBLE WITH THE LEAGUE.
I GUESS YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT GARDNER'S DEPARTURE.
THEY'RE A STRANGE BUNCH, BATMAN. I ADMIT THAT I DON'T HAVE A HANDLE ON THEM YET.
IF YOU'RE NOT UP TO IT...
LOOK, I HAVE A TREMENDOUS AMOUNT OF RESPECT FOR THE JOB YOU AND J'ONN J'ONZZ DID!
BUT THINGS ARE DIFFERENT NOW! I'M NOT SURE YOUR TECHNIQUES WOULD WORK ANYMORE!
HE GAVE ME PLENTY OF PROBLEMS--UNTIL WE... CAME TO AN UNDERSTANDING.
THE ONLY THING GARDNER UNDERSTANDS IS FORCE.
SORRY, BUT THAT'S NOT MY WAY.
WHY NOT COME PAY US A VISIT? I THINK EVEN YOU'LL BE IMPRESSED--

"--BY OUR NEW FACILITY!"
WHEN I WAS A MEMBER WE NEVER CARRIED A COUPLE OF COMEDIANS LIKE THE LEAGUE DOES NOW.
BOOSTER GOLD AND BLUE BEETLE
THERE'S ONLY ONE REASON THESE CLOWNS COULD BE HERE.
THEY MUST BE BLACKMAILING SOMEBODY
YO, TEDDY! EVER SINCE WE MOVED INTO THIS JOINT YOU'VE BEEN HUNKERED DOWN IN THIS LAB! WHAT GIVES?
N CASE YOU'VE FORGOTTEN, BOOSTER--
--I'M AN INVENTOR. I KIND OF PUT IT ASIDE FOR A WHILE BUT NOW I HAVE THE ITCH TO GET IT GOING AGAIN!
SO HOW'S THE ATOMIC TOOTHBRUSH COMING ALONG?
ACTUALLY, I'M WORKING ON A NEW SIGNAL DEVICE FOR THE TEAM.
WHY? WHAT'S WRONG WITH THE ONES WE HAVE?
I'M ADDING A NEW FEATURE.
A TRACKING DEVICE FOR SAFETY--
--AND TRAILING BLOOD-WYND.
WHY DO YOU WANT TO FOLLOW HIM?

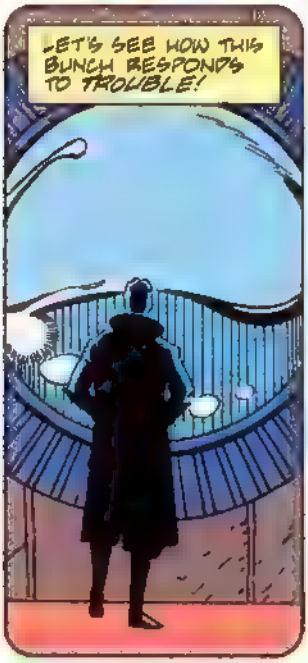

I'VE TOLD YOU BEFORE! THERE'S SOMETHING ABOUT HIM THAT REALLY BOTHERS ME!
BUT WE DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT HIM, SHERLOCK!
EXACTLY, WATSON!
WE KNOW HE'S A SORCERER. WE KNOW HE CAN FLY. HE'S STRONG AND MAY... MAY BE ABLE TO TELEPORT!
BUT WHEN WE WERE LOCKED UP ON ALMERAC HE TURNED HIMSELF INTO A GUARDIAN!*
*LAST ISSUE-- BRIAN.
EVEN STARBREAKER SAID HIS POWER LEVELS WENT OFF THE CHARTS! I'M TELLING YOU, BOOSTER--
--WE HAVE TO KEEP OUR EYE ON HIM!
HOW WILL YOUR TRACKING GIZMO AFFECT OUR FEARLESS LEADER?
I MEAN, WE DON'T KNOW A WHOLE LOT MORE ABOUT SUPERMAN!
OKAY, HIM WE ASK POLITELY. I HATE TO BE SNEAKY LIKE THIS, BOOSTER--
--BUT THIS JUSTICE LEAGUE ISN'T WHAT IT USED TO BE.
THERE'S AN UNDER-STATEMENT AND A HALF. I'VE BEEN SNOOPING AROUND HERE FOR AN ENTIRE DAY AND NO ONE'S DISCOVERED ME
MAYBE IT'S TIME TO TEST THESE GUYS--


--BY SHAKING THINGS UP A LITTLE BIT.
LIKE, WHICH COSTUME SHOULD I GO FOR, TODAY? I WANT TO BE THE TRENDSETTER OF SUPER-HERO FASHIONS, YOU KNOW!
I MEAN, MAYBE YOU SHOULD TRY A NEW LOOK, TOO!
OH, I DON'T THINK SO, BEATRIZ.

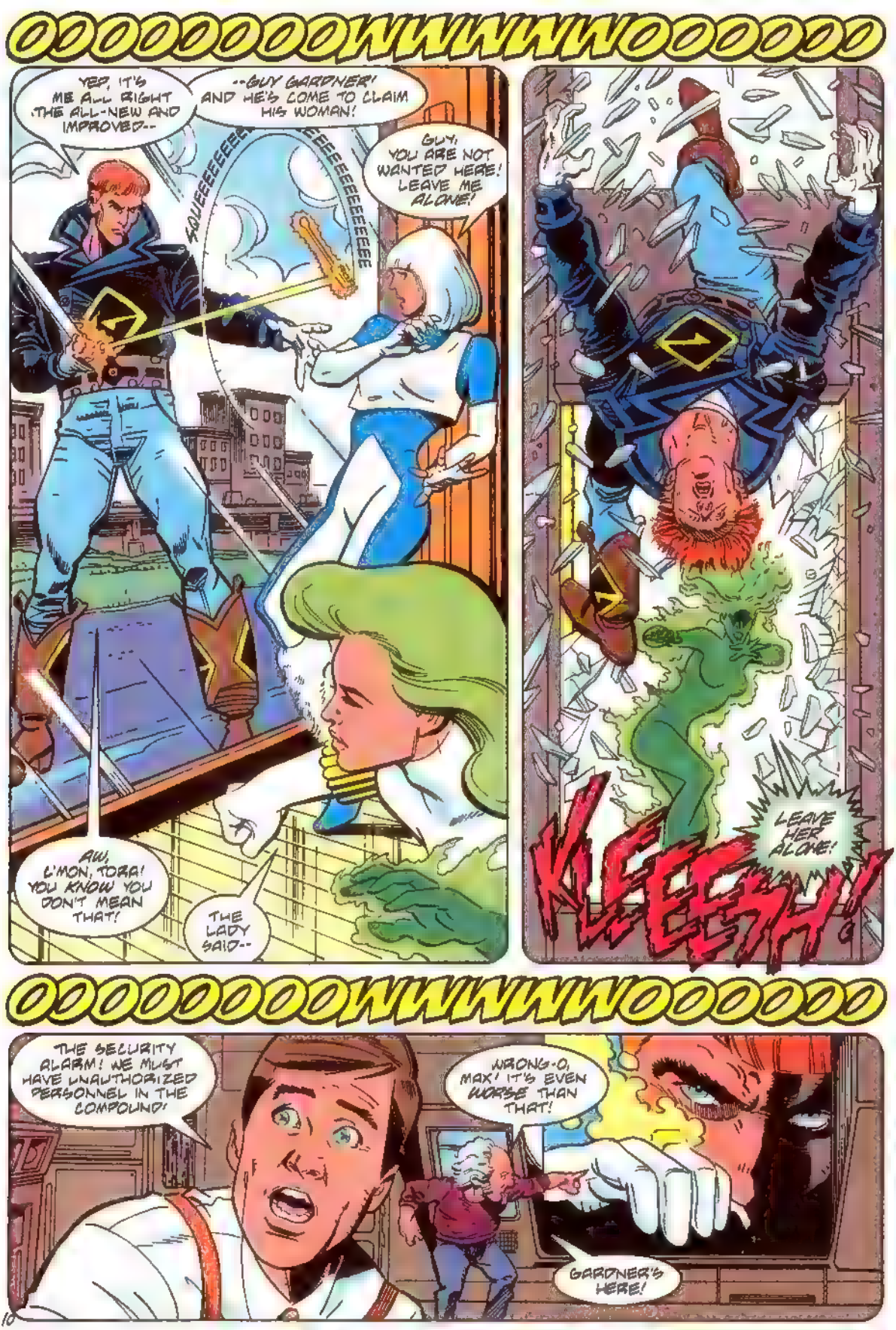
WHY THE LONG FACE? IS IT STILL YOUR THING FOR SUPERMAN?
I DO NOT HAVE A "THING" FOR SUPERMAN
RIGHT. AND MY NAME'S MOTHER TERESA. LOOK, DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT!


HAVING THE HOTS FOR THE MAN OF STEEL IS A WHOLE LOT BETTER THAN THAT NAZI GUY GARDNER.
I MEAN, SURE HE'S A LITTLE POLITE, BUT YOU TWO WOULD MAKE A GREAT COUPLE

CHECK IT OUT.
A MOTION SENSOR. ALL I HAVE TO DO IS TWITCH AND THE ALARMS SOUND.


LET'S SEE HOW THIS BUNCH RESPONDS TO TROUBLE!

OOOOWWWOOO
THE INTRUDER ALARM?
HEY, BABES! MISS ME?
YOU!


OOOOOOOOWWWWOOOOOO!
YEP, IT'S ME ALL RIGHT THE ALL-NEW AND IMPROVED--
--GUY GARDNER! AND HE'S COME TO CLAIM HIS WOMAN!
GUY, YOU ARE NOT WANTED HERE! LEAVE ME ALONE!
AW, L'MON, TORA! YOU KNOW YOU DON'T MEAN THAT!
THE LADY SAID--
LEAVE HER ALONE!
KLEEEH!
OOOOOOOOWWWWOOOOOO!
THE SECURITY ALARM! WE MUST HAVE UNAUTHORIZED PERSONNEL IN THE COMPOUND!
WRONG-O, MAX! IT'S EVEN WORSE THAN THAT!
GARDNER'S HERE!

HOW CAN YOU ACT LIKE YOU CARE FOR TORA WHEN YOU ABANDONED HER ON ALMERAC?
NO WONDER THE GREEN LANTERNS FIRED YOU, COWARD!*
COWARD?
THE REASON THOSE DWEEBS LET ME GO--
*GREEN LANTERN #25--BRIAN.
FOOOSH!
IS THAT THEY COULDN'T STAND THE FACT THAT I'M BETTER THAN THEY ARE!
MAYBE YOU CAN POUND THE WOMEN, GUY!
BUT THAT DOESN'T MEAN YOU CAN BEAT A A GUY WITH A 25TH CENTURY ARSENAL!
WHAT IS THIS?
I DIDN'T COME HERE TO FIGHT!
OOWWO
WHAT IS THIS? I SET OFF THE ALARMS IN HOPES OF TESTING THE LEAGUE'S RESPONSE TO AN INTRUDER--
--AND NO ONE EVEN BOTHERS TO SHOW UP!

I NEVER COULD STOMACH YOUR ATTITUDE, FUTURE BOY!
WHAT MANNER OF INSANITY TRANSPIRES HERE?
DISTASTEFUL, BUT TO INTERFERE MAY ONLY ESCALATE MATTERS. FOR NOW, WE WAIT.
NUTS. I WAS HOPING TO SEE BLOODY GO INTO ACTION IN ORDER TO STUDY HIS POWERS!
SUCK ON THIS, MICRO-BRAIN!
LOOK, JUST CUZ I SAID I DIDN'T COME HERE TO FIGHT--
DOESN'T MEAN I'M GONNA LET THE LIKES O' YOU BULLDOZE ME!
I'M SICK AND TIRED OF YOU GUYS ACTING LIKE YOU KNOW BEST--LIKE YOU'RE SMARTER THAN ME!
IF YOU'RE REALLY THAT BRAINY--
--LET'S TAKE A LOOK INSIDE!
WHIRRR

WHA--?!
YOU ARE TRULY AN INSUFFERABLE HOTHEAD, GARDNER.
"--REALLY IS A BETTER LEADER!"
PERHAPS A SWIM IN THE EAST RIVER WILL COOL YOU DOWN.
OH, MAN, THIS IS GETTIN' TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE!
I FINALLY GET A CHANCE TO CRANK THE BIG BLUE BOY SCOUT HIMSELF!
I ALWAYS KNEW GARDNER WAS SOMEWHAT... BENT, BUT I NEVER EXPECTED HIM TO ATTACK US THIS WAY!
MAYBE BATMAN--
THIS SCRAPE WON'T LAST LONG.
BATMAN? I-I'M AMAZED TO SEE YOU HERE!
I JUST WISH I COULD SEE WHAT'S HAPPENING ON THE RIVER BOTTOM!

OOOOOOOOWWWWWWOOOOOO
YOU'RE NEW AROUND HERE
I AM BLOODWYND.
I'M SURE. PERHAPS YOU OR BLUE BEETLE--
--COULD TELL ME WHY YOU'RE IGNORING A SCREAMING ALARM?
NO BIG DEAL. IT MUST HAVE BEEN ACTIVATED WHEN GARDNER BUST IN ON ICE.
YOU MEAN YOU AREN'T SURE?
CHECK IT NOW
OH, IF YOU INSIST! BUT I'M TELLING YOU IT WAS GUY!
PUH-LEEESE LET IT BE GUY! THE LAST THING I WANT--
--IS TO LOOK LIKE AN IDIOT IN FRONT OF BATMAN!
IT'S PRETTY HARD TO MEASURE UP TO A MAN WHO'S NEVER MADE A MISTAKE IN HIS LIFE!
WELL?
Um... I HATE TO ADMIT IT, BUT ACCORDING TO THE COMPUTER WE DEFINITELY HAVE ANOTHER INTRUDER--

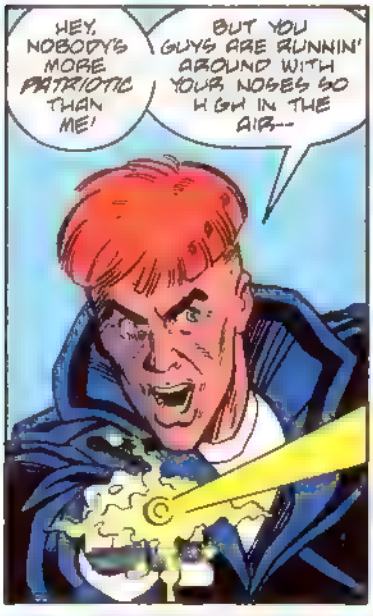
"--IT ISN'T GARDNER!"
JERK'S BEEN RIDIN' MY BUTT SINCE THE DAY HE WALKED IN HERE AND I'VE HAD IT!
WELL, I WAS HERE FIRST! IF HE WANTS TO TAKE MY PLACE IN THE LEAGUE--
--HE'S GONNA HAFTA FIGHT ME FOR IT!
DON'T JUST STAND THERE LIKE A TREE! FIGHT!
ENOUGH
FLUBB
BATMAN WAS WRONG. FORCE WON'T CHANGE GUY.
BUT, I'M NOT GOING TO SINK TO HIS LEVEL..
AND I'M NOT WASTING ANY MORE TIME ON A BELLIGERENT IDIOT!

HEADS UP, COMRADES! SOMETHING WICKED THIS WAY COMES!
DON'T TELL ME THE SOAP DISPENSERS ARE LEAKING AGAIN!
ANY SIGN OF GUY OR SUPERMAN, TORA?
NONE! YOU...
...YOU DON'T THINK THEY'LL HURT EACH OTHER, DO YOU?
THANKS TO BLUE BEETLE'S NEGLIGENCE WHEN THE ALARMS SOUNDED--
--YOU'VE GIVEN THE INTRUDER FREE REIN IN YOUR COMPOUND. I SUGGEST WE START A SEARCH
GET THIS! COMPUTER DATA SAY OUR VISITOR IS LESS THAN SIX INCHES TALL!
HMMM... AFTER ALL THIS TIME... COULD IT POSSIBLY BE HIM?
THE INTRUDER IS INDEED SMALL BUT HE IS NO LONGER IN THE BUILDING.
HE IS ACTUALLY CLINGING TO YOUR CAPE, BATMAN.
CAN'T BELIEVE THAT BLOODWYND GUY ACTUALLY SPOTTED ME!
I WASN'T DETECTED THE WHOLE TIME I WAS INSIDE--
--AND HE CAUGHT ME LIKE HE HAS RADAR-VISION OR SOMETHING! I BETTER DITCH IT--

--BEFORE THINGS REALLY START LOOKING AROUND HERE!
NOBODY WALKS AWAY FROM GUY GARDNER!
NOBODY!
I'LL MAKE YOU FIGHT ME!
I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN YOU'D DO SOMETHING LIKE THIS, GARDNER.
NO. THIS IS A STRUGGLE BETWEEN TWO WARRIORS WHO HAVE AN IMPORTANT DIFFERENCE TO SETTLE
A TRUE VICTOR MUST EMERGE
GUY IS SO ANGRY HE MIGHT REALLY HURT SUPERMAN! WE HAVE TO STOP THEM!
EVEN THOUGH I WOULD DEARLY LOVE TO CLEAN YOUR CLOCK, I WON'T DO IT, GARDNER!
THE MINUTE I LOWER MYSELF TO YOUR LEVEL OF VIOLENCE, YOU WIN!
AND YOU'LL NEVER WIN WHILE I'M AROUND!
WATCH ME!
LIKE I SAID, THINGS WERE NEVER LIKE THIS IN THE OLD DAYS.

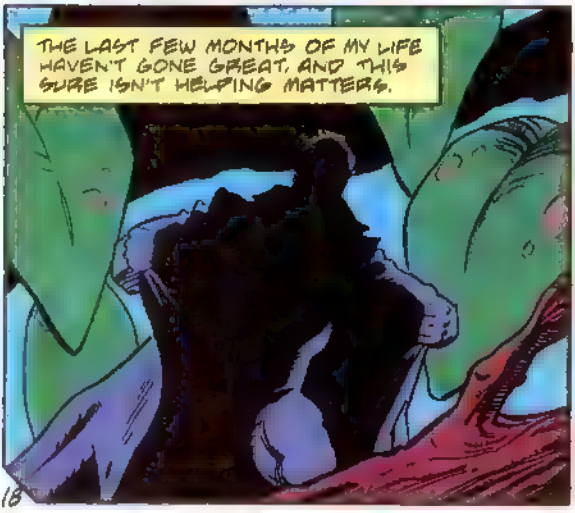
YOU WANT TO LOWER YOURSELF TO MY LEVEL?
SO, I'M NOT GOOD ENOUGH, huh? I GUESS NO MERE MORTAL CAN BE GOOD ENOUGH FOR YOU!

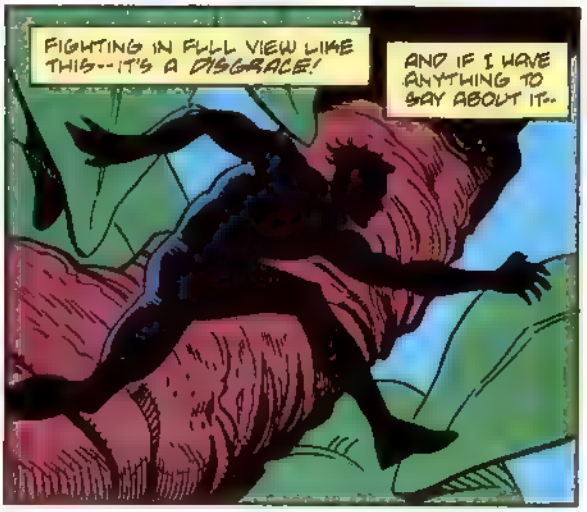
LOOK, GARDNER, THIS IS THE JUSTICE LEAGUE AMERICA! WE REPRESENT IDEALS--
--THAT YOU DON'T LIVE UP TO!


HEY, NOBODY'S MORE PATRIOTIC THAN ME!
BUT YOU GUYS ARE RUNNIN' AROUND WITH YOUR NOSES SO HIGH IN THE AIR--

--FORMIN' YOUR OWN PRIVATE MORALITY SQUAD--
--THAT IF SOMEONE HAS DIFFERENT METHODS, YOU GET RID OF 'EM!

I CAME TO MAKE PEACE--
--BUT YOU GUYS TURNED IT INTO A WAR BY ATTACKIN' ME FIRST!

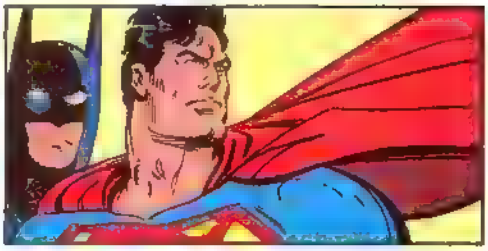

THE LAST FEW MONTHS OF MY LIFE HAVEN'T GONE GREAT, AND THIS SURE ISN'T HELPING MATTERS.

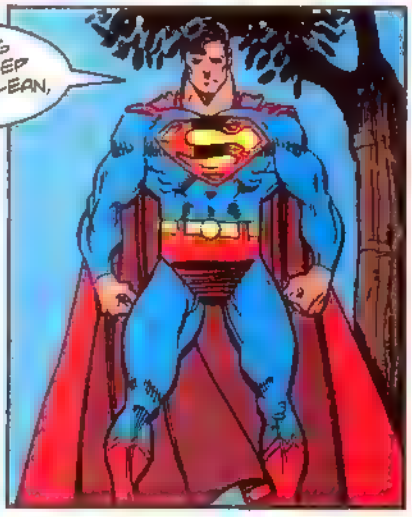

FIGHTING IN FULL VIEW LIKE THIS--IT'S A DISGRACE!
AND IF I HAVE ANYTHING TO SAY ABOUT IT--

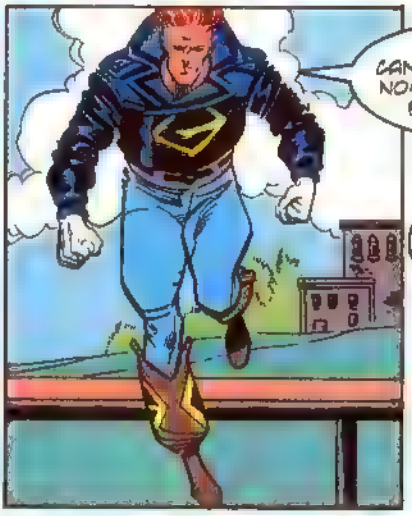
--IT'S GOING TO END HERE AND NOW!
I WAS RIGHT! THERE'S YOUR INVADER, BEETLE!
THE ATOM!
WOW! IF HE'S WADING INTO THIS FIGHT, WE CAN! LET'S GO!
NO. MAXIMA WAS RIGHT. CONSIDERING THE LARGER ISSUES AT STAKE--
--WE'RE STAYING ON THE SIDELINES.
I THOUGHT THE VOLATILE PERSONALITIES IN THE SUICIDE SQUAD WERE BAD
BUT GUY GARDNER BEATS THEM ALL

I'VE REDUCED MY WE GHT SO FAR THAT GARDNER COULD NEVER FEEL ME LAND.
BUT IF I MAINTAIN THIS SIZE AND INCREASE MY WEIGHT TO A FULL 180 LBS. JUST AS I HIT HIM--
--HE'LL DEFINITELY FEEL ME!
YEEOW!
FEELS LIKE SOMEONE JUST SHOT ME!
ATOMIZED WOULD BE A BETTER TERM, GARDNER!
SUPERMAN NEEDS HELP FROM A PIPSQUEAK LIKE YOU?
THE ONLY HELP SUPERMAN NEEDS IS YOURS! WHY NOT GIVE THE MAN A BREAK BY COOLING YOUR TEMPER?
BUZZ OFF, TOM THUMB! THIS IS LEAGUE BIZNESS!
I WAS TAKING CARE OF LEAGUE BUSINESS WHEN YOU WERE STILL GETTING YOUR RINGS OUT OF CRACKER JACK BOXES!
FRIEND OR FOE, PAST OR PRESENT--
"--NOBODY MAKES A FARCE OF THE JUSTICE LEAGUE WHILE I'M AROUND!"

LET'S TALK.
SURE. WHAT'S UP?
I THINK YOU SHOULD REINSTATE GARDNER IN THE JUSTICE LEAGUE.
YOU HAVE GOT TO BE JOKING!
NO.
SOMEONE HAS TO KEEP WATCH OVER THIS LOOSE CANNON AND YOU'RE THE PERFECT MAN FOR THE JOB.
I CONTROLLED GARDNER WITH THREATS FOR A WHILE BUT HE'S NEVER GOTTEN ANY BETTER.
MAYBE YOU CAN BE A BETTER ROLE MODEL.
WOULD YOU LIKE ME TO ADOPT HIM TOO?
BY NOT FIGHTING, YOU'VE ALREADY SHOWN HIM YOU'RE TEN TIMES THE MAN HE'LL EVER BE
EITHER YOU TAKE HIM BACK OR HE RUNS LOOSE! WHAT DO YOU THINK IS BEST?
NOW, WHY DON'T YOU JUST SKIP ALONG WHILE THE BIG PEOPLE TAKE CARE OF THINGS?
CUT THE TOUGH ACT, GARDNER! I'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR A PLACE TO FIT IN--
--AND SOMETHING TELLS ME YOU HAVE, TOO.
MELLOW OUT, AND MAYBE--JUST MAYBE--THEY'LL MAKE ROOM FOR US BOTH.




PROVIDING YOU CAN KEEP YOUR NOSE CLEAN, GUY--
--YOU'RE IN.


IF YOU CAN KEEP YOUR NOSE OUTTA MY BUSINESS--
--I MIGHT JUST HANG AROUND A WHILE!

HOW ABOUT YOU, ATOM? PLANNING TO STAY?
HARD TELLING. THIS JUSTICE LEAGUE IS QUITE DIFFERENT FROM THE ONE I BELONGED TO.
I'D LIKE TO THINK THIS WILL ALL WORK OUT--

--BUT I HAVE MY DOUBTS.
THE END

...AND YOU HANDED MY JOB TO SOME JOE OFF THE STREET?!

THE MAN IS EMINENTLY QUALIFIED, I ASSURE YOU, HE'S--

HE'S ASKING FOR LESS THAN ME, ISN'T HE?

WELL, I'M NOT LOWERING MY SALARY REQUIREMENTS!

I HAVE A MORTGAGE... I'VE GOT A WIFE ...AND KIDS...

WHAT DO YOU MEAN, THE OPENING'S BEEN FILLED? YOU CAN'T TURN ME DOWN!

I'M SORRY, MR. JOHNSON. THE STOCK MARKET IS STILL DEPRESSED.

WE JUST DON'T NEED AS MANY BROKERS--

THERE WAS AN OPENING! YOU HAD MY REFERENCES...

METROPOLIS

THAT ISN'T--

YOU PERSONNEL JOCKEYS JUST LOVE PLAYING GOD, DON'T YOU?

HOLDING PEOPLE'S FATES IN THE PALMS OF YOUR HANDS!

WELL, YOU BETTER HOPE I DON'T GET THESE HANDS AROUND THAT SCRAWNY LITTLE NECK OF YOURS!

THE URGE TO TWIST IT WOULD BE MORE THAN I COULD RESIST!

I CHECKED HIS REFERENCES, YOU KNOW.

HIS PAST EMPLOYERS SAID HE'S ON A SHORT FUSE... CAN'T TOLERATE FRUSTRATION.

HE'S THE LAST GUY PHERSON-KLEMALL NEEDS RIGHT NOW.

SUPERMAN: THE MAN OF STEEL 16 October 1992. Published monthly by DC Comics Inc., 1325 Avenue of the Americas, New York, NY 10019. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to SUPERMAN THE MAN OF STEEL, DC Comics Subscriptions, P.O. Box 0528, Baldwin, NY 11510. Annual subscription rate $15.00. Canadian subscribers must add $8.00 for postage and GST GST # is R125921072. All other foreign countries must add $12 00 for postage, U.S. funds only.
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BROWN BLVD.

CLINTON ST.

GIVE HER BACK, JERRY! SHE'S MINE!

CUT IT OUT, JER! GIVE HER THE STUPID DOLL!

STOP IT, KIDS! MOM AND I ARE TRYING TO TALK!

HERE, ANDREA! I WANT YOU TO TAKE THIS!

YOU GONNA MAKE ME, TEDDY BEAR? HOW ABOUT I GIVE IT TO YOU, INSTEAD?!

WHAAAA!

MOM... I CAN'T. GARY WOULDN'T--

IT'S A GIFT, HONEY. TO YOU. YOU DON'T HAVE TO TELL GARY ANYTHING.

I KNOW HOW... PROUD HE IS.

HE MIGHT BE ANGRY IF HE KNEW I WAS HELPING OUT. HIS TEMPER--

HE DOESN'T MEAN IT, MOM. HE'S BETTER THAN I DESERVE.

HE HAS A GOOD LEAD... ON A JOB. HE'LL HAVE WORK SOON, YOU'LL SEE.

THOSE BRUISES, ANDREA. GARY'S NOT... HITTING YOU, IS HE?

DON'T BE SILLY, MOM. I TOLD YOU, I... FELL DOWN THE STAIRS.

GARY LOVES ME, MOM. WHY WOULD HE WANT TO HURT ME?

CAN I GET YOU GUYS ANYTHING ELSE?

NO THANKS, NIKI. JUST THE *CHECK*, PLEASE.

I THOUGHT FOR *SURE* WE'D BE THE LAST FOLKS HERE.

PIZZA

NAH, WE GET A FEW OTHER *MIDNIGHT STRAGGLERS*. BUT HEY, *METROPOLIS* IS A LATE-NIGHT TOWN.

WANNA COME UP FOR *ICE CREAM*, LOIS?

ICE CREAM? YOU'RE *KIDDING*, RIGHT? IF I ATE LIKE YOU DO, I'D BE AS FAT AS A *PIG*.

PASTA

HMM... YOU'RE NOT TALKING *CHOCOLATE-MINT*, ARE YOU? WHAT *TIME* IS IT, ANYWAY?

344 CLINTON

ALMOST MIDNIGHT. I HEAR JAY LENO'S MONOLOGUE.

ON TV, BABE, NOT ALL THE WAY IN L.A.

HEY, I'VE GOT *SUPER-HEARING*. SO SUE ME.

AND I'VE GOT A BREAK-FAST INTERVIEW WITH *MAYOR BERKOWITZ* AT 7 AM SHARP.

THINK OF ME WHILE YOU'RE GOBBLING UP THE *FROSTY FREEZ*.

SWEET *DREAMS!*

TAXI!

NIGHT, SWEETIE. SEE YOU AT THE PLANET.

ON DUTY JL6

DROMMY TAXI INC. 4TH REPO AV.

BRIGHT AND EARLY. UGH. BUT WITH THE ECONOMY IN THE STATE IT'S IN...

"... I GUESS WE'RE LUCKY TO HAVE JOBS!"

DIDN'T GET THE JOB. HOW'M I GONNA TELL ANDREA I DIDN'T GET IT?

SAVINGS ARE GONE. WE GOT NUTHIN'.

GOIN' NOWHERE.

RATTLE KLUNK

BLASTED KEYS! MAYBE I OUGHTA JUST KICK THE DOOR IN!

DUMB BROAD... WHERE IS SHE? IF IT WASN'T FOR HER AND THOSE BRATS--

THERE YOU ARE! THANK HEAVEN! IT'S LATE! I WAS SO WORRIED!

THE CHILDREN ARE IN BED. I SAVED SUPPER FOR YOU.

DID YOU GET THE JOB?

A JOB -- MONEY! THAT'S ALL A BROAD LIKE YOU CARES ABOUT, ISN'T IT?

3-F

SMAK!

THE MEATLOAF'S DRY AS LEATHER, ANDREA!

I-I KEPT IT WARM, HON, JUST LIKE YOU LIKE IT. I THOUGHT--

BIMBO LIKE YOU NEVER LEARNED TO THINK!

I'M SORRY, GARY, PLEASE, YOU'LL WAKE THE KIDS.

DON'T YOU TELL ME WHAT TO DO! YELLING'S THE ONE THING YOU UNDER-STAND!

KRAK!

WHAT DOES IT TAKE TO KNOCK SOME SENSE INTO YOU?!

ANSWER ME! WHAT?!

PLEASE...

WAK!

YOU KNOW WHAT YOU ARE? WORTHLESS!

KRAK!

HUH?

I DON'T KNOW WHY I PUT UP WITH YOU!

GARY, THE KIDS! I DON'T WANT THEM TO SEE--

THUD

SEE WHAT? THEIR LAZY MOTHER LEARN HER LESSON?!

WAKT

FASTER THAN A SPEEDING BULLET.

HOPE IT'S--

--FAST ENOUGH!

NOW... WHERE--?

HARD KNOCKS

LOUISE SIMONSON - STORY
JON BOGDANOVE - LAYOUTS
DENNIS JANKE - FINISHES
BILL OAKLEY - LETTERING
GLENN WHITMORE - COLORING
JENNIFER FRANK - ASST. EDITING
MIKE CARLIN - EDITING

SUPERMAN created by JERRY SIEGEL & JOE SHUSTER

I'VE HAD ENOUGH, YOU LAZY COW!

THIS TIME I'M LAYING DOWN THE LAW!

KK-KRAZHH!

MY OWN BUILDING... DOWN THE HALL!

IT'S ANDREA ...AND GARY!

I'M GOING TO TEACH YOU TO LISTEN TO ME...

...EVEN IF I HAVE TO BEAT IT INTO YOU!

NO!

SUPERMAN!

NOW!

LOOK, WE WERE JUST HAVING A... A DISCUSSION...

HE DIDN'T HURT ME! NOT MUCH!

I BURNED THE MEAT LOAF!

HE WAS JUST TRYING TO TEACH ME--

DROP THAT!

TEACH HER WHAT? WHAT WAS THAT BELT SUPPOSED TO TEACH HER?

A-ANDREA...

DON'T!

THUD!

...NO...

GARY!

YOU'VE KILLED HIM!

STOP IT! LEAVE HIM ALONE!

911! POLICE! IT'S MY HUSBAND! HE'S KILLING MY HUSBAND!

IT'S 344 CLINTON! HURRY... PLEASE...

ATTEMPTED HOMICIDE AT 344 CLINTON? WHAT APARTMENT?

YEAH, GOT IT!

LET'S GO!

DON'T BE AFRAID. YOUR HUSBAND'S OKAY. WHEN YOU BENT THAT LAMP OVER MY HEAD, HE FAINTED!

I DIDN'T HURT HIM... BUT HE WAS HURTING YOU.

I SUSPECT THIS ISN'T THE FIRST TIME SOMETHING LIKE THAT HAPPENED.

YOU DON'T HAVE TO PUT UP WITH HIS VIOLENCE. I'LL BE HAPPY TO ESCORT YOU TO A SAFE HOUSE...

...WHERE YOUR HUSBAND WON'T BE ABLE TO FIND YOU OR HURT YOU ANYMORE...

...WHERE YOU CAN TAKE YOUR CHILDREN AND BE SAFE...

THE ONLY ONE WE NEED TO BE SAFE FROM IS YOU!

LOOK, YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND! HE'S A GOOD MAN. HE LOVES ME AND THE KIDS.

IT'S MY FAULT! I DESERVE IT! THIS HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH YOU!

WHY DON'T YOU JUST GO AWAY AND LEAVE US ALONE?

ALL RIGHT! HANDS IN THE AIR! EVERYBODY FREEZE!

SUPERMAN! WHAT--?!

HE BROKE INTO OUR APARTMENT... THROUGH THE WINDOW!

HE HAD GARY BY THE THROAT! I THOUGHT HE WAS KILLING HIM!

HER HUSBAND WAS HITTING HER... WITH A BELT. I HEARD HER SCREAM, AND--

HE WAS BEATING HER?

YEAH, LOOK AT HER. YOU WANT TO PRESS CHARGES AGAINST HIM, MA'AM?

IF YOU WANT TO ARREST SOMEBODY, ARREST SUPER-MAN...

...FOR BREAKING OUR WINDOW AND INVADING OUR PRIVACY AND--

NO. I DON'T WANT YOU TO ARREST HIM. I DON'T WANT YOU TO ARREST ANYBODY.

I JUST WANT YOU TO MAKE HIM GO AWAY.

MOONEY

HE WAS *HURTING* HER AND SHE *DEFENDED* HIM. SHE'S *SCARED*, OF COURSE.

SOMETIMES, WHEN A WIFE *LEAVES* A BATTERING HUSBAND, HE ATTACKS HER WITH *LETHAL* VIOLENCE.

BUT ANDREA'S AFRAID OF *MORE* THAN GARY'S REACTION.

I COULD HAVE TAKEN HER TO A *SHELTER*... AT LEAST I KNOW ONE THAT TAKES *KIDS*...

BUT WHAT *THEN*?

COULD SHE FIND A PLACE TO *LIVE*?

COULD SHE *EARN* ENOUGH, AFTER CHILD-CARE COSTS, TO SUPPORT HER KIDS?

WITHOUT A STREET ADDRESS, SHE COULDN'T EVEN GET ON *WELFARE*.

AND SO SHE *STAYS* WITH HIM. AND SHE COULD *DIE*.

SHE WON'T LET *SUPERMAN* HELP HER...

"... BUT MAYBE, THIS TIME, CLARK KENT CAN SUCCEED WHERE *SUPERMAN* HAS FAILED."

METROPOLIS POLICE WEST
MPD WEST SIDE PRECINT

MPD

1437

650-13BY

NICE SET O' THREADS!

WHOOEE, MAN--YOU A LITTLE OUT O' PLACE HERE, AIN'TCHA?

CAN I HELP YOU?

I'M HERE TO REPORT AN INCIDENT OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE.

AT 344 CLINTON, A HUSBAND, GARY JOHNSON, BATTERING HIS WIFE.

SHE WILLING TO PRESS CHARGES AGAINST THE SLIME?

NO, BUT I AM.

SORRY, SIR, ONLY THE PERSON ASSAULTED CAN DO THAT.

IF SHE WON'T PRESS CHARGES... MAYBE GET A COURT ORDER TO KEEP HIM AWAY FROM HER...

...OUR HANDS ARE TIED.

THERE'S NOT A THING WE CAN DO.

CUT IT OUT, JERRY!

WHATSA MATTER, TEDDY-BEAR? CAN'T TAKE IT?

IF YOU DON'T CUT IT OUT, I'M GONNA TELL DAD!

YOU WOULDN'T DARE!

'BYE, TIGER! BE GOOD! DON'T GO RUNNIN' OUT IN THE STREET...

...OR PICKIN' FIGHTS WITH ANY DOGS--

DAD'LL WHACK YOU GOOD FOR BEIN' A CHICKEN, CRY-BABY, TATTLE-TALE WIMP!

LIKE THIS LITTLE CHUMP HERE!

HE HAS TO KISS HIS STUPID CAT GOOD-BYE 'CAUSE HE DOESN'T HAVE A MAMA!

HEY-- I DO TOO GOT A MAMA! SHE JUST... HAD TO GO SOME-WHERE!

COATES CHILDREN'S CENTER
CHILDRENS' AID SOCIETY

SHE LEFT ME TIGER. SHE TOLD ME TO TAKE CARE OF HER.

SHE SAID SHE'LL COME BACK FOR HER.

YEAH, RIGHT... SHE'LL COME BACK FOR THE STUPID CAT... BUT NOT FOR YOU!

SHE WILL BE BACK FOR ME!

YOU'LL SEE... SHE'LL BE BACK!

ANDREA DID WHAT?

DAILY PLANET

SHE DEFENDED THAT BULLY OF A HUSBAND AND TRIED TO HAVE ME ARRESTED.

I'M SUPERMAN, LOIS! I CAN MOVE MOUNTAINS...

...BUT I CAN'T SAVE ONE SMALL WOMAN FROM HER BULLY OF A HUSBAND!

I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO NEXT! THE LAW SAYS SHE HAS THE RIGHT TO CHOOSE...

...TO STAY WITH HIM OR LEAVE... TO PRESS CHARGES OR NOT.

BUT WHEN THE CHOICE THREATENS HER LIFE--?

I KNOW... I TRIED TO TAKE THE CHOICE FROM SOMEONE ONCE WHEN I WAS YOUNGER...

"I HAD HAD MY COSTUME... AND THE NAME YOU'D GIVEN ME, SUPERMAN... FOR ABOUT A WEEK...

"I WAS GOING TO SAVE THE WORLD, RIGHT ALL WRONGS.

"I DIDN'T SLEEP. I DIDN'T EAT. I WAS THE EYES AND EARS AND CONSCIENCE OF METROPOLIS...

"... AND I MOVED FROM GOOD DEED TO GOOD DEED WITH THE SPEED AND ENTHUSIASM OF A WELL-MEANING TORNADO.

"AND THEN I HEARD HER SCREAM..."

NO! DON'T HIT ME AGAIN! PLEASE!

HOLD IT!

WHAT D'YOU WANT? WHO ARE YOU?

HEY! DON'T GET TOUGH!

TOUGH IS PUTTING MILDLY THE TREATMENT YOU'RE GOING TO GET!

--BUT Y'ASKED FOR IT!

YOU'RE NOT FIGHTING A WOMAN NOW!

I DON'T USE KNIVES ON WOMEN--

SNAP!

I... AH...

DON'T TOUCH MY HUSBAND! YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE DOING!

I KNOW EXACTLY WHAT I'M DOING!

AND NOW YOU'RE GOING TO GET A LESSON--

--A LESSON YOU'LL NEVER FORGET!

NO!

YEEEEE!!

÷WHOUF!÷

IF YOU EVER STRIKE A WOMAN AGAIN, I'LL BE BACK!

AND THE NEXT TIME I DROP YOU, I MIGHT NOT BOTHER TO CATCH YOU!

I DIDN'T MEAN IT, OF COURSE.

I JUST WANTED TO SCARE HIM... TO MAKE HIM STOP HURTING HER.

SOMETIMES I WISH I COULD DROP GUYS LIKE THAT FROM THIRTY STORIES UP AND BE DONE WITH IT--

"--BUT IT ISN'T THAT *EASY.*"

HUMPH! KEITH DIDN'T EAT HIS *DINNER.*

THE CHILDREN'S AID
630 COATES CHILDRENS
EST. 1896

WHAT'S *GOTTEN INTO* THAT BOY?

KEITH! WHERE ARE YOU, *HONEY?*

KEITH!

YEAH, I *HEAR,* TIGER. MYRA'S CALLIN' ME...

...BUT I DON'T HAVE TO ANSWER HER 'CAUSE SHE'S NOT MAMA.

YOU REMEMBER MAMA, DON'T YOU, TIGER?

I KNOW THIS IS JUST A LADY IN A MAGAZINE, BUT MAMA *LOOKED* LIKE THAT...

BONY

Special Section On Health And Fitness

Police B

...REAL *PRETTY.* HER *HAIR* WAS LIKE THIS, TOO.

YOU'LL COME *BACK* FOR TIGER... WON'T YOU, MAMA?

AND ME, TOO? YOU LOVE ME, TOO... RIGHT?

SHE LOVES US. SHE LEFT US HERE *TOGETHER*... SO WE CAN TAKE CARE OF EACH OTHER...

...DIDN'T SHE TIGER?

TIGER?

TIGER!

MEW!

MAMA?

IT MUST BE... TIGER WENT TO HER.

SHE CAME FOR TIGER.

SHE DIDN'T COME FOR ME.

WHERE ARE YOU GOING, GIRL?

WHO'S THAT YOU'RE RUNNING UP TO?

MAMA! DON'T LEAVE ME!

MEOW!

TAKE ME, TOO!

MAMA... PLEASE...?

MEOW!

NICE KITTY!

CAT STEW!

YUMMMM!

WHERE'D THE MONEY FOR THIS STEAK COME FROM, ANDREA?

I KNEW IT WAS YOUR FAVORITE, GARY. THERE... THERE WAS A SALE, AND I THOUGHT...

I WANT TO DO SOMETHING.

BUT WHAT CAN I DO?

SHE DOESN'T WANT MY HELP.

I WISH I COULD TOSS GARY INTO THE RIVER LIKE THE POND SCUM HE IS!

I KNOW WHAT PA WOULD SAY--

"--I KNOW WHAT HE SAID BACK THEN..."

...THE WEIRD THING WAS, HIS WIFE DIDN'T WANT MY HELP.

BUT I COULDN'T LISTEN TO HER, COULD I, PA? HE MIGHT HAVE KILLED HER!

I TOLD THE CREEP TO LEAVE HER ALONE AND I TOSSED HIM INTO THE AIR.

I WANTED HIM TO SEE HOW IT FELT TO BE SO HELPLESS... AND AFRAID.

I SCARED HIM GOOD, PA, BUT... WILL IT WORK?

DID I DO THE RIGHT THING?

GOD KNOWS. EVERY CASE IS *DIFFERENT*, SON. YOU HAVE TO DO WHAT SEEMS BEST AT THE TIME.

THAT'S ALL ANYONE CAN DO. AND YOU KNOW...

...FOR SOME PROBLEMS, THERE'S NO *QUICK-FIX* SOLUTION.

I FEEL *CONFUSED* SOMETIMES, PA! SOMETIMES IT'S HARD TO *KNOW* WHAT'S RIGHT.

LET THE LAW *GUIDE* YOU, SON. IT WAS MADE BY *ALL* OF US.

BUT, PA... WHAT IF THE LAW IS *WRONG*?

DAD

THIS AIN'T NO RESTAURANT BUB!

THEN WE WORK TO *CHANGE* IT, AND--WHAT IS IT, SON?

PA, EVEN *HERE*, I HEAR EVERY CRY FOR HELP... AND I TRY TO HELP *EVERYBODY*, AND I...

...I JUST *CAN'T*. IT'S MAKING ME FEEL *CRAZY*!

YOU CAN'T *LISTEN* ALL THE TIME, CLARK.

YOU AREN'T *GOD*, TO BE AWARE OF EVERY BIRD AND BLADE OF GRASS. YOU'RE A *MAN*.

YOU NEED TO *NOT* LISTEN, SOMETIMES.

YOU NEED TO *REST* AND TO *LOVE* AND TO *LAUGH*...

20 KANSAS 81
J-K-1437

"...YOU CAN'T LET THE PAIN OUT THERE *OVERWHELM* YOU, SON. SOMETIMES YOU JUST HAVE TO SHUT IT OFF."

BUT WHAT IF THE PAIN IS RIGHT *NEXT* DOOR?

WHERE'D THE *MONEY* COME FROM, ANDREA?

ANY MAN COULD HEAR IT!

YOU GOT IT FROM SOME-WHERE!

AND THE *LAW* SAYS I CAN'T *INTER-FERE!*

I'LL TEACH YOU--

WHAT IF I *CAN'T* SHUT IT OFF??

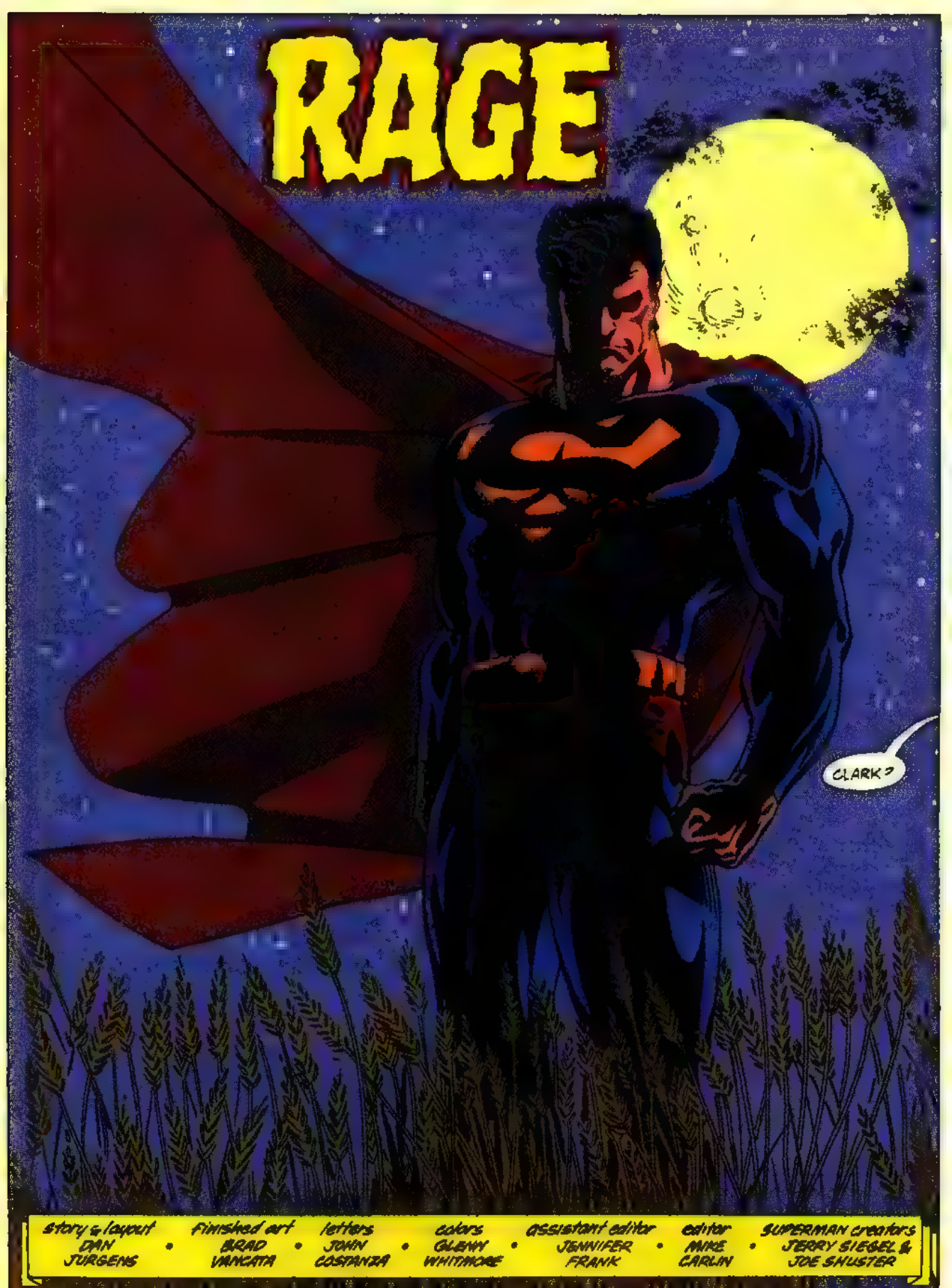
--NOT TO LIE TO ME!

KRAK

THERE *MUST* BE AN ANSWER... FIND OUT IN

SUPERMAN #72

...ON SALE IN JUST SEVEN DAYS!



story & layout: DAN JURGENS • Finished art: BRAD VANCATA • letters: JOHN COSTANZA • colors: GLENN WHITMORE • assistant editor: JENNIFER FRANK • editor: MIKE CARLIN • SUPERMAN creators: JERRY SIEGEL & JOE SHUSTER

SUPERMAN 72 October 1992 Published monthly by DC Comics Inc., 1325 Avenue of the Americas, New York, NY 10019. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to SUPERMAN, DC Comics Subscriptions, PO. Box 0528, Baldwin, NY 11510. Annual subscription rate $15.00. Canadian subscribers must add $8.00 for postage and GST. GST # is R125921072. All other foreign countries must add $12.00 for postage. U.S. funds only. Copyright © 1992 DC Comics Inc. All Rights Reserved. All characters featured in this issue, the distinctive likenesses thereof, and all related indicia are trademarks of DC Comics Inc. The stories, characters and incidents mentioned in this magazine are entirely fictional. Advertising Representative: Print Advertising Representatives, 355 Lexington Avenue, New York, NY 10017 (212) 949-6850 Printed in Canada
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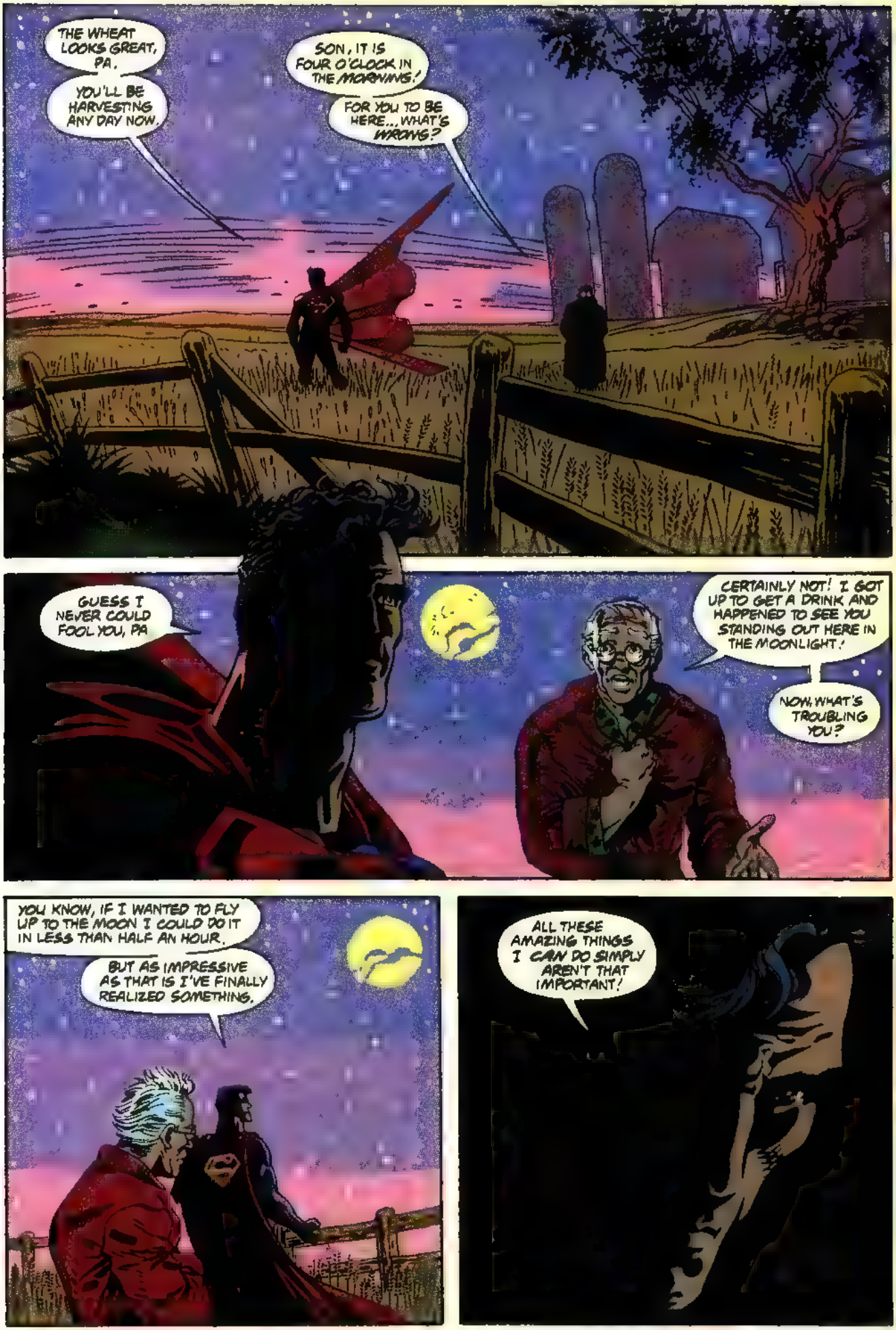

THE WHEAT LOOKS GREAT, PA.
YOU'LL BE HARVESTING ANY DAY NOW.
SON, IT IS FOUR O'CLOCK IN THE MORNING!
FOR YOU TO BE HERE... WHAT'S WRONG?
GUESS I NEVER COULD FOOL YOU, PA
CERTAINLY NOT! I GOT UP TO GET A DRINK AND HAPPENED TO SEE YOU STANDING OUT HERE IN THE MOONLIGHT.
NOW, WHAT'S TROUBLING YOU?
YOU KNOW, IF I WANTED TO FLY UP TO THE MOON I COULD DO IT IN LESS THAN HALF AN HOUR.
BUT AS IMPRESSIVE AS THAT IS I'VE FINALLY REALIZED SOMETHING.
ALL THESE AMAZING THINGS I CAN DO SIMPLY AREN'T THAT IMPORTANT!

IT'S THE THINGS I CAN'T DO THAT ARE KILLING ME!
PA, THERE ARE SOME TERRIBLE INJUSTICES OUT THERE I JUST CAN'T FIX!
YOU ACCEPTED THAT FACT LONG AGO, CLARK. EVEN SUPERMAN HAS SOME STRICT LIMITS.
WHAT'S SO DIFFERENT ABOUT THIS ONE?

OVER SEVEN YEARS AGO, THE FIRST WEEK I WORE THIS SUIT, I CAME ACROSS SOME GUY BEATING HIS WIFE. REMEMBER?
OH, LORD, HOW COULD I FORGET? YOU DROPPED THE MAN FROM THIRTY STORIES UP, AND THEN--

I WAS YOUNG. STILL SOMETHING OF A HOTHEAD. I THOUGHT I COULD SOLVE ANY PROBLEM IN THE WORLD!
AND YOU THOUGHT YOU COULD STOP HIS ABUSIVE WAYS BY SCARING THE BEJEEBERS OUT OF HIM!

YES. AND THE RESULTS HAVE TORTURED ME EVER SINCE.
IT WAS A TOUGH CALL FOR YOU TO MAKE RIGHT OUT OF THE CHUTE LIKE THAT, SON.
AND YOU LEARNED A GREAT DEAL FROM IT. DON'T EVER FORGET THAT.

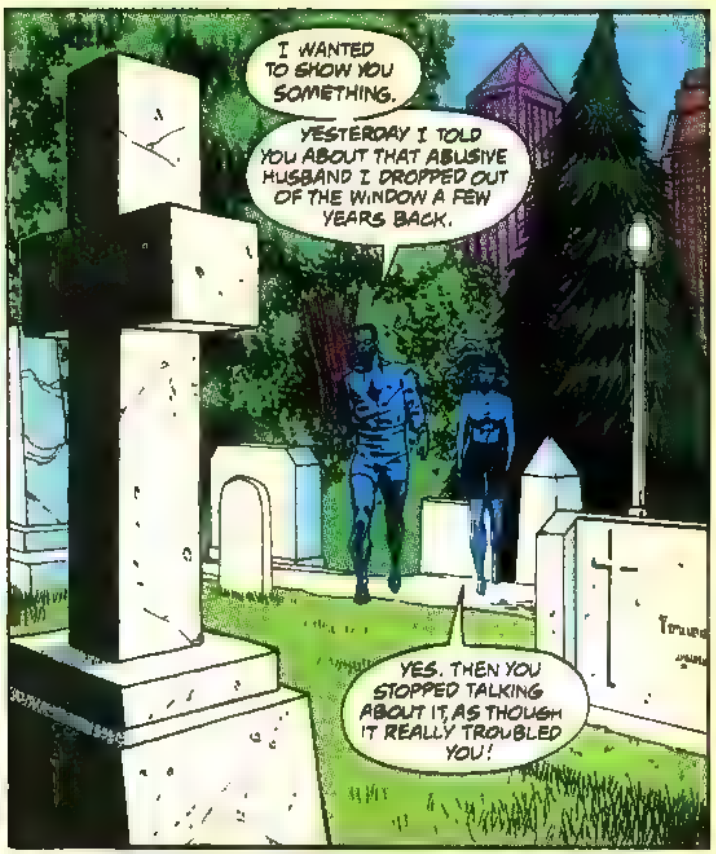
I DON'T KNOW, PA. IT'S HAPPENING ALL OVER AGAIN AND I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO!
IF ALL I LEARNED WAS TO PLAY IT SAFE THEN WHAT GOOD IS THAT?

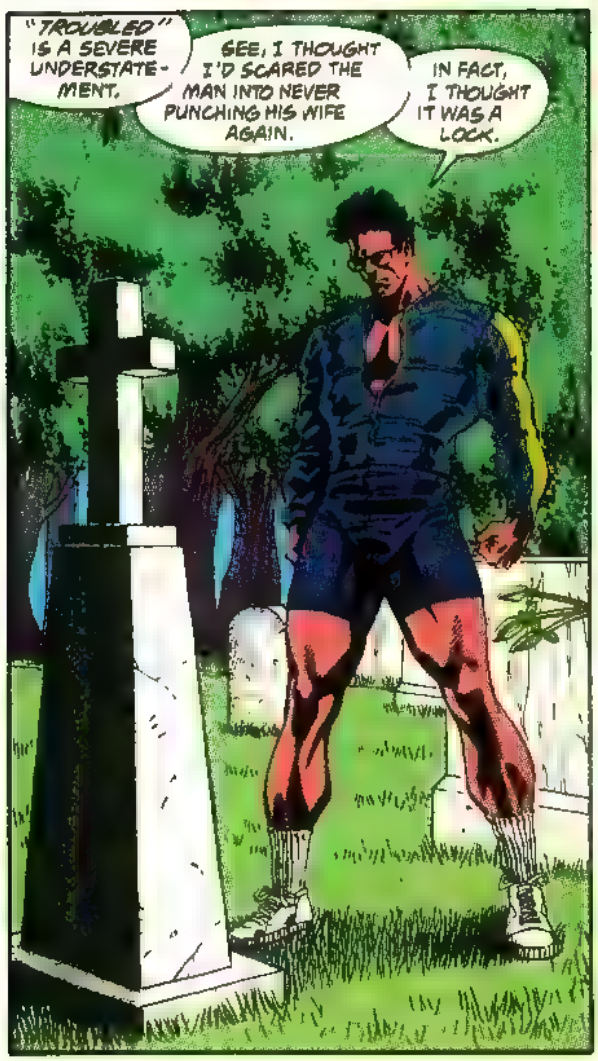
IT'S HAPPENING IN THE APARTMENT RIGHT NEXT DOOR TO MINE, PA!
RIGHT NEXT DOOR!
AND WHEN I WENT CHARGING IN TO SEE WHAT I COULD DO TO HELP, THIS POOR BRUISED AND BEATEN WOMAN--
--CALLED THE COPS!
BUT DID SHE DO THIS TO HAVE HER HUSBAND ARRESTED?
NO! SHE CALLED THEM TO GET RID OF ME!
OBOY.
SHE DEFENDED THE CREEP, PA! SHE STOOD THERE WITH A SWOLLEN, BLOODY FACE AND FOUR HYSTERICAL KIDS--
--AND SAW ME AS THE BAD GUY! SO WHAT DO I DO NOW? I CAN'T VERY WELL DROP HER HUSBAND OUT THE WINDOW, CAN I?
CALM DOWN, CLARK!
I DON'T WANT TO CALM DOWN!
ALL I WANT TO DO IS GRAB THIS GUY BY THE THROAT AND--
CLARK!

IF YOU TRY PULVERIZING SOMETHING EVERY TIME YOU GET MAD YOU AREN'T A WHOLE LOT DIFFERENT FROM THAT NEIGHBOR OF YOURS!
BESIDES, I'M KINDA PARTIAL TO THIS TREE!
NO, I--I--
--I GUESS YOU'RE RIGHT, PA. SEEMS LIKE YOU KEEP GETTING SMARTER EVERY YEAR.
ONLY BECAUSE I'VE LEARNED FROM ALL MY MISTAKES.
NOW LET'S GO WAKE UP YOUR MOTHER AND TALK HER INTO MAKING US A STACK OF FLAPJACKS!
NOT NOW, PA. I PROMISED LOIS I'D JOG WITH HER THIS MORNING AND RIGHT NOW I COULD USE HER SHOULDER.
BE SURE TO GIVE MA MY LOVE.
SURE THING, SON.
THAT EPISODE FROM A FEW YEARS BACK REALLY TORE CLARK UP INSIDE!
AND THIS NEW SITUATION HAS ALL THE SIGNS OF A NEW MESS IN THE MAKING.
DEAR GOD, PLEASE HELP HIM HANDLE THIS ONE.
PLEASE.
WITH A LITTLE LUCK--

"--YOU AND LOIS MIGHT JUST PULL HIM THROUGH."
THIS IS CRAZY! IT'S SIX O'CLOCK IN THE MORNING ON A SATURDAY!
YOU KNOW WE HAD A JOGGING DATE THIS MORNING, LOIS!
TWO HOURS FROM NOW, SURE! DID YOUR ALARM--; MUFF ;--GO OFF EARLY OR SOMETHING?
NO, I JUST COULDN'T STAND BEING HOME
WHY?
OH
THE JOHNSONS MUST BE FIGHTING AGAIN.
I'M AT A LOSS, LOIS. LUTHOR, BRAINIAC, TOYMAN--
--NONE OF THEM AFFECTED ME AS MUCH AS THIS ONE, LONE, ABUSIVE HUSBAND!
ME TOO! THAT GARY-- ; MUFF ; --JOHNSON MAKES ME SO MAD!
I JUST WANT TO-- ; MUFF ; --KNOCK HIS BLOCK OFF!
THAT MAKES TWO OF US. UNFORTUNATELY, THAT WON'T SOLVE ANYTHING
SAY. COULDN'T YOU AT LEAST-- ; MUFF ; PRETEND YOU'RE WORKING AT THIS?

SORRY! ; HUFF-- HUFF! : I'M BEAT!
THAT ANY BETTER?
OH, GO EAT A CHUNK OF KRYPTONITE!
WHERE ARE WE? WE'VE NEVER-- ; HUFF--HUFF : -- GONE THIS WAY BEFORE!


I WANTED TO SHOW YOU SOMETHING.
YESTERDAY I TOLD YOU ABOUT THAT ABUSIVE HUSBAND I DROPPED OUT OF THE WINDOW A FEW YEARS BACK.
YES. THEN YOU STOPPED TALKING ABOUT IT, AS THOUGH IT REALLY TROUBLED YOU!


"TROUBLED" IS A SEVERE UNDERSTATE-MENT.
SEE, I THOUGHT I'D SCARED THE MAN INTO NEVER PUNCHING HIS WIFE AGAIN.
IN FACT, I THOUGHT IT WAS A LOCK.

"BUT A FEW DAYS LATER REALITY SET IN WHEN THE DAILY PLANET'S NEWEST REPORTER WENT OUT ON ASSIGNMENT."
TAXI
SCREECH
HERE YA GO, PAL. $6.50!
"IT WAS MY FIRST MURDER STORY.
I WAS SO EXCITED ABOUT COVERING IT THAT I NEVER EVEN REALIZED WHERE I WAS.'"

HEY, HEY, KID. NO FARTHER. WE HAVE AN INVESTIGATION IN PROGRESS HERE.
POLICE LINE
NOT CROSS
YOU'RE INSPECTOR HENDERSON, RIGHT?
MY NAME IS CLARK KENT! I JUST STARTED ON THE CITY BEAT FOR THE DAILY PLANET.
WELL, IF YOU'RE WORKING FOR PERRY WHITE YOU MUST HAVE SOMETHING ON THE BALL.
WELCOME TO THE BIG LEAGUES, KENT.
THANKS, INSPECTOR.
WHAT CAN YOU TELL ME ABOUT THIS MURDER?
CROSS
FEMALE, CAUCASIAN, AGE 39. NEIGHBORS TELL US HER HUSBAND WAS ROUGHING HER UP SINCE DAY ONE.
LOOKS LIKE SHE WAS FINALLY LEAVING THE BUM WHEN HE CAUGHT HER AT THE DOOR WITH A .38 PISTOL--
--AND SHOT HER.
TO TOP THINGS OFF IT SEEMS THAT NEW SUPERMAN CHARACTER WAS THREATENING HER HUSBAND A FEW DAYS AGO.
YOU OKAY, KENT?
MUST BE YOUR FIRST SHOOTING VICTIM, HUH?
DON'T SWEAT IT.
AFTER A WHILE THESE WON'T AFFECT YOU AT ALL.

YOU MEAN IT WAS HER? THE WOMAN YOU'D JUST RESCUED?
YES, ROBYN McGILL.
I HAD TRULY BELIEVED THAT I'D SOLVED THE PROBLEM BY SCARING HIM...
..BUT IT ONLY MADE MATTERS WORSE!
SOMEHOW SUPERMAN'S INVOLVEMENT GAVE HER THE COURAGE SHE NEEDED TO FINALLY LEAVE HER HUSBAND.
CAN YOU IMAGINE HOW GUILTY HER DEATH MAKES ME FEEL?
NO WONDER YOU CAN'T STAND TO SEE THIS ALL COME UP AGAIN!
WHATEVER HAPPENED TO MR. McGILL? DID YOU CATCH HIM?
OH, I WANTED HIM ALL RIGHT I WANTED HIM SO BAD I COULD TASTE IT.
CAPTURING HIM BECAME AN OBSESSION WITH ME. AND HE'D TOTALLY DISAPPEARED.
"UNTIL THEN I'D SIMPLY SOLVED ALL MY PROBLEMS WITH MY STRENGTH.
"NOW I HAD TO THINK. I CHECKED EVERY FLOP HOUSE AND HOTEL IN METROPOLIS AND THERE WAS STILL NO SIGN OF HIM.

"FOR THREE DAYS, TWENTY-FOUR HOURS A DAY I SCOURED THE CITY.
"I DIDN'T SLEEP.. DIDN'T EAT.. YOU MAY EVEN REMEMBER THAT I CALLED IN SICK THOSE DAYS.'
"BUT IT WAS USELESS. McGILL HAD VANISHED WITHOUT A TRACE.
"THERE WAS ONLY ONE MORE PLACE THE DIRT BAG MIGHT BE.
"HIS POOR, DEAD WIFE'S FUNERAL.
"IT WAS RIGHT HERE AT THIS VERY CEMETERY ON A CLOUDY, DREARY DAY. AND I FELT PARTIALLY RESPONSIBLE FOR IT.
I DIDN'T WANT TO INTERRUPT SO I STOOD OFF TO THE SIDE AND USED MY SUPER HEARING TO LISTEN TO THE PRIEST.
"BUT ONCE I'D TUNED IN I REALIZED THAT APART FROM THE WEEPING AND SOBBING OF HER FRIENDS AND RELATIVES-
'--I COULD HEAR SOMEONE ELSE.

"I'M TELLING YOU, LOIS, THAT AS SOON AS I SAW HIM MY HEART FILLED WITH A KIND OF RAGE I'D NEVER EXPERIENCED BEFORE.
"ALL I COULD THINK OF WAS ROBYN'S LIFELESS BODY LYING ON THAT COLD FLOOR.
"I WANTED REVENGE.
"I WANTED HIM DEAD.
"WHEN I GRABBED HIM I SCREAMED SO LOUD THAT I ALMOST BROKE HIS EARDRUMS.
"I FULLY EXPECTED HIM TO BEG ME FOR MERCY--
"--BUT HE WAS FULL OF SURPRISES."
LEMME GO! IT'S YOUR FAULT, Y'KNOW! NOT MINE!
MY FAULT? HOW IN GOD'S NAME CAN YOU BLAME ME?
YOU PULLED THE TRIGGER, McGILL!
YOU--YOU COULDA STOPPED ME BUT YOU DIDN'T! BY LETTING ME LIVE--
--YOU MIGHT AS WELL'VE SHOT HER YOURSELF!
"IT WAS A CLASSIC CASE OF DENIAL ON HIS PART... BUT HE STILL GOT TO ME.

"SEE, NO MATTER HOW UNREALISTIC HE MIGHT HAVE SOUNDED, PART OF ME AGREED WITH HIM.
"AND IT MADE ME ALL THE MADDER."
YOU WORTHLESS PIECE OF TRASH! I SHOULD MAKE UP FOR NOT DROPPING YOU TO YOUR DEATH THEN--
--BY DOING IT NOW!
NO.
THERE'S BEEN ENOUGH KILLING. DON'T MAKE IT WORSE.
SEE, THAT'S MY DAUGHTER. . MY BABY OVER THERE IN THAT CASKET. AND I THINK SHE'D WANT TODAY TO BE A PEACFUL ONE.
HER FIRST ONE IN YEARS.
MARTIN IS A HUMAN BEING... A GOOD BOY DEEP DOWN.
HOW CAN YOU SAY HE'S A GOOD BOY? HE MURDERED YOUR DAUGHTER, MRS....
MRS. MCGILL. THAT YOUNG MAN YOU'RE THREATENING IS MY SON... MY BABY.

SO... ROBYN WAS MY SISTER AND I WANT JUSTICE! I SAY KILL THE NO-GOOD LOUSE AND BE DONE WITH HIM!
NO! YOU CAN'T! HE'S MY SON!
WHO CARES? HE DESERVES TO DIE!
YEAH!
IF YOU WON'T DO IT THEN WE WILL!
YEAH! GIVE HIM TO US! WE'LL GIVE HIM HIS DUE!
COOL IT! HE HAS RIGHTS! LET THE SYSTEM DEAL WITH HIM!
"FOR THE FIRST TIME I TRULY BEGAN TO UNDERSTAND THE IMPORTANCE OF SOCIETY'S RULES AND MY NEED TO HONOR THEM.
"I COULD USE MY BASIC MORAL INSTINCTS FOR GUIDELINES BUT THE COURTS MUST HAVE THE FINAL SAY."
IT MUST HAVE BEEN DIFFICULT FOR YOU TO TURN HIM OVER TO THE POLICE.
NOT AFTER HEARING THAT CROWD. THEY WERE VERBALIZING FEELINGS I WANTED TO DENY.
BESIDES, WHEN I TURNED MCGILL IN, IT PROVED TO INSPECTOR HENDERSON THAT THIS NEW SUPERMAN WAS ON HIS SIDE.
WELL, YOU DID HAVE YOUR SHARE OF SKEPTICS WHEN YOU FIRST ARRIVED.

YES, IT'S NOT EVERY DAY THAT--
LISTEN!
SLAMMM
CRASH
YOU STUPID MORON!
DON'T THOSE PEOPLE EVER STOP?
CLARK, WE HAVE TO DO SOMETHING!
NO.
NO?!
CLARK KENT, IF WE DON'T GET ANDREA OUT OF THERE HE MIGHT REALLY HURT HER!
SUPERMAN ALREADY INTERFERED TO NO AVAIL AND I WENT TO THE POLICE AND CAME UP EMPTY.
I CAN'T BECOME INVOLVED UNTIL THEY ALLOW ME TO
WELL, YOU CAN AT LEAST CHECK ON THEM WITH YOUR X-RAY VISION AND MAKE SURE THEY'RE OKAY!
I WILL NOT USE MY POWERS TO INTERFERE! IT DIDN'T WORK SEVEN YEARS AGO--
--AND IT WON'T WORK NOW.

YOU'RE NOTHING TO ME! NOTHING!
I CAN'T TAKE THIS ANYMORE.
I'LL TURN ON THE RADIO TO DROWN THEM OUT, UNTIL THEY ASK--
"--THEIR PROBLEMS ARE THEIR OWN"
PLEASE, GARY, I--I'M SORRY!
SORRY?
THERE IS NO EXCUSE FOR NOT HAVING MILK IN THE HOUSE, STUPID!
IF I LEFT YOU ALONE TO RAISE THE KIDS YOU'D SEE HOW HARD IT IS TO HANDLE ALL THE--
LEAVE? YOU AREN'T GOING ANYWHERE, PIG!
EVEN IF YOU HAD THE GUTS TO LEAVE YOU COULDN'T SURVIVE WITHOUT ME!
I COULD TOO! I--
BULL! YOU'RE A ZERO ON YOUR OWN AND NO OTHER MAN WOULD PUT UP WITH YOUR STUPIDITY!

THAT DOES IT! SOMEONE HAS TO STOP THAT LUNATIC!
CRASSSH
LOIS, WAIT!
WHO AM I KIDDING? SHE'S RIGHT!
GARY JOHNSON, YOU OPEN THIS DOOR RIGHT NOW OR I'M CALLING THE POLICE!
BAMM
BAM
LEAVE US ALONE! THIS IS NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS!
CALL THE POLICE! PLEASE!
I WON'T LET YOU STOP ME, CLARK!
RELAX AND STAND BACK!

WHAT THE HELL--?!
KRAKK
LOOK, I DON'T WANT ANY TROUBLE WITH YOU, JOHNSON.
BUT IF YOU H T HER AGAIN...
YOU'RE SICK, MISTER! I SUGGEST YOU START WALKING AND DON'T COME BACK!
I'M NOT GOING ANY-WHERE! BUT YOU, ON THE OTHER HAND--
DON'T EVEN THINK ABOUT THAT, JERK!
I--I WANT YOU TO LEAVE, GARY...NOW
FOR THE LOVE OF GOD, YOU HAVE TO LEAVE--
--AND STOP THIS INSANITY BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE FOR ALL OF US!

SHE SAID, "LEAVE"
GO COOL OFF.
PERMANENTLY.
...IT...IT'S OVER. MY MARRIAGE... EVERYTHING...
YOU'RE BETTER OFF NOW, ANDREA REALLY.
BUT I DIDN'T WANT IT LIKE THIS! I KNOW YOU WON'T UNDERSTAND THIS--
--BUT I THINK I STILL LOVE HIM!
CLARK, CAN YOU LEAVE US ALONE?
OF COURSE
BUT I'LL BE SURE TO KEEP AN EYE ON GARY TO MAKE SURE HE DOESN'T COME BACK!

I KNOW I HAD TO END THIS CYCLE OF VIOLENCE... BUT WHAT WILL I DO WITH MY LIFE?
HOW WILL I CARE FOR THE KIDS?
YOU'LL FIND A WAY, ANDREA. I'M SURE OF IT.

THAT'S FOR A WORKING GIRL LIKE YOU TO SAY. I DON'T HAVE ANY SKILLS OR MEANS OF SUPPORT!
NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS, YOU AND THE CHILDREN WILL BE BETTER OFF WITHOUT GARY!

I DON'T KNOW, MAYBE HE'LL CHANGE. MAYBE--
NO. YOU HAVE TO TAKE SOME STEPS ON YOUR OWN.
THIS IS THE PHONE NUMBER FOR A WOMEN'S SHELTER I DID A COLUMN ON SEVERAL MONTHS AGO.

YOU'RE A VERY COURAGEOUS WOMAN, ANDREA. BUT DON'T BE SO COURAGEOUS THAT YOU WON'T ASK FOR HELP.
BUT I FEEL SO ASHAMED AND EMBARRASSED ADMITTING IT TO ANYONE..

THEY WON'T PASS JUDGMENT. CALL THEM, OKAY?
I'LL... THINK ABOUT IT...

WISH I HAD SUPER-HEARING LIKE CLARK. I'M DYING TO KNOW--
"--IF SHE'LL MAKE THE CALL."
555 3179
WAIT! MAYBE THERE IS A WAY TO FIND OUT!
I NOTICED THE JOHNSONS HAVE A REMOTE PHONE/AND THAT OPENS THE DOOR FOR AN OLD REPORTER'S TRICK!
A REMOTE PHONE ACTUALLY WORKS BY RECEIVING A RADIO SIGNAL...JUST LIKE A WALKIE-TALKIE OR HOUSEHOLD RADIO!
BY TUNING ALL THE WAY TO THE BOTTOM OF THE AM BAND I MIGHT JUST BE ABLE TO PICK UP HER CALL!
IS THIS THE ABUSED WOMEN'S SHELTER? MY NAME IS ANDREA JOHNSON..
..AND I...I...
..I THINK I COULD USE YOUR HELP. I THINK...I KNOW I'VE BEEN SUFFERING FOR SO LONG...
THANK GOD.
WE'RE VERY HAPPY YOU CALLED, MRS. JOHNSON. FROM NOW ON WE WANT YOU TO CONCENTRATE ON THE WELFARE OF YOUR CHILDREN--

"--AND YOURSELF."
GOOD THING I DECIDED TO TRAIL JOHNSON. WHILE I EXPECTED TROUBLE--
--I DIDN'T EXPECT SUICIDE.
THIS WON'T SOLVE ANYTHING, YOU KNOW.
YOU?!
WHAT... WHAT WOULD YOU KNOW ABOUT LIFE?
MORE THAN YOU MIGHT THINK.
RIGHT. LIKE A GUY WHO CAN FLY AND LIFT TANKS HAS TO WORRY ABOUT BEING UNEMPLOYED--AND WHAT IT DOES TO YOU
AND WHAT IT DOES TO THOSE YOU LOVE.
I MEAN... THAT NIGHT YOU BROKE INTO OUR APARTMENT... YOU WERE RIGHT. I WAS.. WELL--
I HAVE THIS PROBLEM, AND IT MAKES ME HATE MYSELF.
AND THAT HATE MAKES IT WORSE. IT MAKES YOU BEAT YOUR WIFE EVEN MORE.
OH, GOD, I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO. I WANT TO STOP, BUT I CAN'T!
I THINK I NEED HELP... AND I THINK I NEED IT SOON.

MR. JOHNSON, THAT IS THE BEST THING I'VE HEARD IN A LONG TIME.
AND PROBABLY THE MOST SENSIBLE THING YOU'VE SAID IN A WHILE, TOO.
THE END

ECLIPSO THE DARKNESS WITHIN
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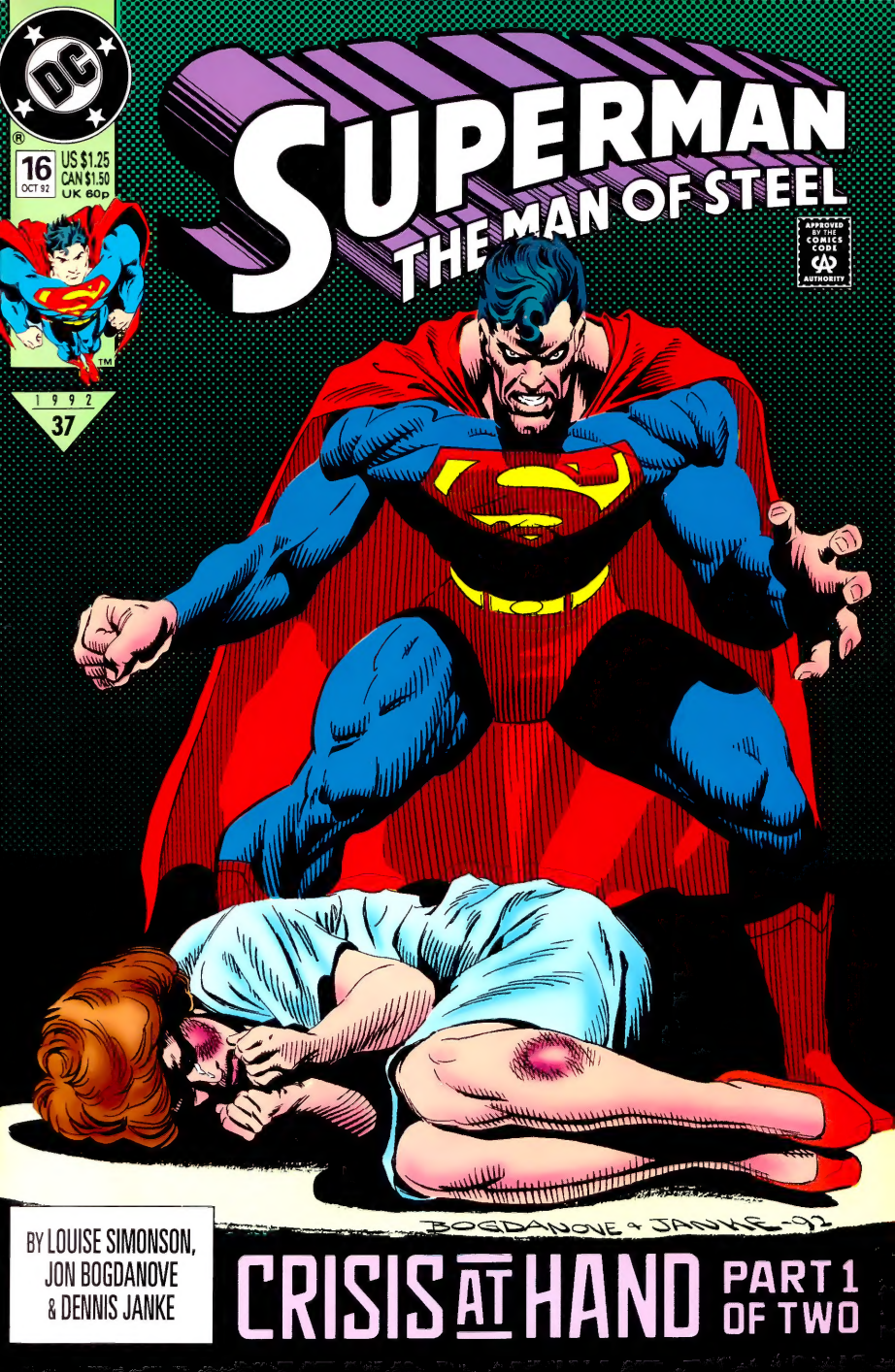
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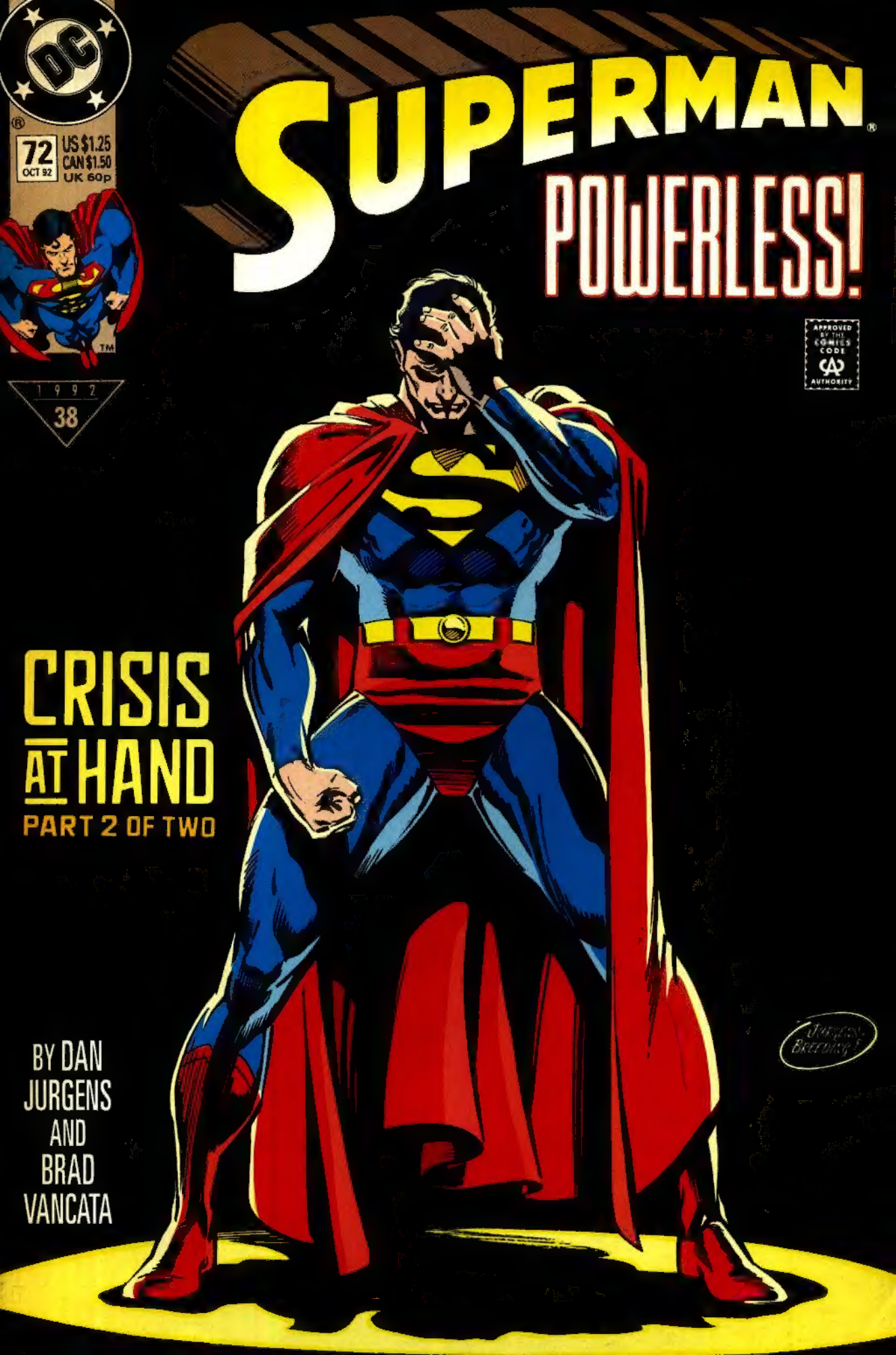
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